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WASHINGTON, Jan. 9, 1862.

MR. SUMNER'S SPEECH ON THE TRENT AFFAIR.

The speech of Mr. Sumner in the Senate to-day, on the Trent affair, was a masterly and conclusive exposition of the triumph of American principles as applied to international law. In all his arguments and illustrations he left our respected mother England "out in the cold." He demonstrated that by all other leading European Powers the American doctrine had been recognized and admitted for many years, and that England alone had opposed it. The inconsistency of the present position of England, with her policy in all the past, was admirably illustrated, and the conclusion, that Great Britain is now stopped from any future assertion of her doctrine in reference to the right of visitation and search, was brilliant and effective. The speech was impressively delivered. The galleries of the Senate were densely crowded. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the ladies' gallery was filled to overflowing. Mrs. Vice President Hamlin and a party of her friends occupied seats in the diplomatic gallery, which was also filled. Secretaries Chase and Cameron occupied seats on the floor of the chamber, where were also the French, Russian, Austrian, Prussian, Danish and Swedish Ministers. Lord Lyons was not present, as etiquette required that he should not be there on such an occasion. The speech was listened to with fixed attention by Senators Bright and Powell and ex-Senator Green. M. Mercier, the French Minister, occupied a seat next to Mr. Bright, and exchanged salutations with Mr. Sumner at the conclusion of the speech, as did also most of the other foreign dignitaries.

Mr. Sumner's speech has created a marked impression on the public in regard to himself. It has removed much prejudice that existed against him, and added greatly to his reputation as a profound statesman. The impression prevailed that, with all his learning, his extraordinary acquirements, and splendid talents, he could not avoid the introduction of his peculiar views in reference to slavery; and on account of the strong anti-slavery proclivities of England hitherto and the sympathy heretofore from this cause existing between leading English politicians and our own anti-slavery men of Mr. Sumner's class, it was apprehended by many that he would be inclined to lean towards Great Britain in this controversy. His course to-day was, therefore, an agreeable surprise. The absence of any allusion in his speech to the negro question demonstrated his ability and willingness to rise superior to the one idea attributed to him, and the scathing exposition of British inconsistency in regard to the right of search, and the dignified rebuke he administered to England, exhibited his capacity to regard public affairs with the eye of a genuine statesman.

The applause accorded to this really great production is universal and unqualified.

GENERAL STONE AND THE RENDITION OF FUGITIVE SLAVES.

Some three weeks since, it was announced that General Stone, commanding a brigade in General Banks' column, was tickling the rebels by returning fugitive slaves, and that he compelled Massachusetts soldiers in his command to perform that service. This announcement not only aroused the indignation of Governor Andrew, of that State, but that of the Senators and most of the representatives from Massachusetts. Senator Sumner, a few days afterwards, in commenting in his place in the Senate upon the order of Gen. Halleck concerning the disposition of slaves that came within his lines, took occasion to allude to Gen. Stone's course in returning fugitives, the facts concerning which I understand Mr. Sumner fully satisfied himself about. The Senator's notice of Gen. Stone was brief, but pointed. A few days afterwards Senator Sumner received a letter from Gen. Stone, the contents of which are the subject of street comment, and do not reflect creditably upon General Stone, who, it is said, employed language towards the Massachusetts Senator which is characterized by those who have read the letter as being unbecoming a soldier, much less an officer of the distinction and position of General Stone. Mr. Sumner treats the letter with contempt. The whole subject is in the hands of General McClellan at present; but it is the determination of several Senators to bring the subject before the Senate.

DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN GENERAL MANSFIELD AND GENERAL WOOL.

General Mansfield, who is at present in command at Newport News Point, is pressing a demand for removal to some other position, on account of an unpleasant disagreement between himself and General Wool. It appears that on the recent occasion, when a body of the rebels crossed New Market Bridge, General Mansfield went out with a force to repulse them. There was a group of houses on each side of the creek. Those nearest to the federal fortification afforded shelter to our soldiers, and those on the other side were used for protection by the rebels. In the skirmishes that occurred at that point, the rebels in retiring burnt the houses that sheltered our troops, and General Mansfield, to deprive the rebels of the advantage they had, burned those on the other side. For this he was severely censured by Gen. Wool, who, in general orders, characterized the act as a piece of Vandalism. This public censure, for doing what he deemed a duty in exercising a precautionary care for the safety of his troops, has rendered Gen. Mansfield's position peculiarly disagreeable, but his request for a change has not yet been granted.

IMPORTANT ARREST.

Mr. W. T. Smithson, a prominent banker of this city, was arrested yesterday afternoon, upon the charge of treasonable correspondence with the enemy. He is a Virginian, and has never made any secret of his sympathy with the rebels. Many of the leaders of the rebellion were his most intimate associates. He was a zealous and influential member of the Methodist Episcopal church South, and his friends are unwilling to believe that he has been guilty of any improper conduct.

CONDITION OF GENERAL M'CLELLAN AND GENERAL MARCY.

Neither General McClellan nor General Marcy were out to-day, the inclemency of the weather rendering their exposure imprudent.

ALL QUIET ALONG THE LINE.

Everything has been quiet to-day along the lines of the army.

THE REPORTED BATTLE AT ROMNEY.

So far as any conflict or skirmishing with the enemy is concerned, nothing of official of the fight at Romney, announced to-day, has been received at headquarters.

ARRIVAL OF THE PRISONERS FROM RICHMOND.

The Richmond prisoners arrived this afternoon. They will receive their pay, and those enlisted for three years are ordered back to their regiments. They complain that no ration allowance is granted, alleging that they were obliged to expend money to keep themselves from starving.

The prisoners number one hundred and ninety, and were comfortably cared for at the Government Voluntary Receiving House, near the railroad station. Dr. A. Tripp, of Scranton, Penn., is among the arrivals. The remainder of the party either went home after arriving in Baltimore from Old Point, or are detained there at the government hospitals, owing to their wounds breaking out afresh.

THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR COMMITTEE.

The joint committee appointed on the 19th of December, to examine into the conduct of the war, have assiduously applied themselves to that duty. They have been in session nearly every day since, and have obtained much valuable information. Senator Wade, the chairman, is so industriously engaged that he is seldom seen in the Senate, and then only when important votes require his presence.

A BILL TO PUNISH FRAUD AND BRIBERY.

In the House to-day Mr. Harris introduced a bill to prevent fraud in the public service and punish bribery in certain cases. This bill makes it a high misdemeanor, and a subject for indictment in any United States court having criminal jurisdiction, for any one to promise, offer or give, directly or indirectly, anything to any officer or public agent, either before or after his election or appointment, to influence his vote, decision or action in any proceeding, or in the discharge of any duty, or to induce him to neglect or omit the performance of any duty, or to use his influence to procure any appointment or emolument, or allowance, or payment. The penalty fixed is a fine of not less than the value nor more than three times the value of the thing offered or given or accepted, and imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than one nor more than ten years, and disqualification forever from holding any office under the United States. The same penalty attaches to the officer convicted of receiving any such bribe, and the terms "officer" and "public agent" are made to include all who are performing any service for the United States. The bill also provides that any disbursing officer or agent to make contracts or purchases for the government, who shall directly or indirectly accept a present or reward, shall forfeit his office, and be promptly removed.

AFFAIRS ON THE LOWER POTOMAC.

There is considerable ice in the Potomac, but the iron clad steamer King Philip keeps the communication open. The steamer Stepping Stones came from the lower flotilla, past the batteries, last night, to the flagship of the upper flotilla. Nothing new had occurred down the river. The rebels are thought to be reserving their strength to attack the Pensacola when she goes to sea.

THE ARMY.

Colonel Friedman, of the Cameron Dragoons, received a despatch to-day from Governor Dennison, of Ohio, tendering him the command of a regiment of cavalry, to be assigned to Kentucky.

Robert J. Ballestier was to-day appointed Second Lieutenant in Captain Mott's old battery. He was at Bull run, where he acquitted himself gallantly.

First Lieutenant Stewart, of Captain Mott's battery, who was severely injured some time since at drill, to-day reported himself for duty.

All of Captain Mott's officers have been promoted from the ranks. The Captain is determined to admit of no other appointments if he can help it, and the men under him, knowing this determination, work with a hopeful zeal and courage.

First Lieutenant W. G. Mitchell, of the Forty-ninth Pennsylvania regiment, has been appointed Aid-de-Camp on the staff of Brigadier General Hancock.

PAYMENT OF THE TROOPS.

All the muster rolls are nearly completed, and arrangements about perfected for paying our troops across the Potomac. Major Ritter to-day paid off the Forty-third New York Volunteer regiment, Colonel Vinton.

ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP A HOSPITAL AT ALEXANDRIA.

An attempt was last night made to blow up the Mansion House in Alexandria. This was formerly occupied as a hotel, but now as a hospital. A barrel had been secreted in the cellar filled with powder and projectiles, and a fuse was found extending from there to the stable. In proximity to the combustibles lucifer matches and [illegible] had been plentifully distributed. The fuse end at the stable had actually ignited, but the act was fortunately discovered by the guard, and the progress of the slow fire extinguished. But for this watchfulness and prompt action, not only would several hundred lives probably have been lost, but other casualties resulted.

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS FOR APPOINTMENTS IN THE NAVY.

Applicants for situations as master's mates in the Navy Yard are required to accompany their papers with recommendations from their last employers, and must have seen three years sea service, and not be over thirty years of age. Acting masters are similarly appointed, with the exception that they must not be over forty years of age.

MONETARY AFFAIRS.

Treasury notes are four per cent discount. Exchange on New York ½ per cent.

THE NEW GRANADIAN MINISTER.

It is implied in a recent publication that General Herran consented to act as Minister of the legitimate government of New Granada when he was made aware that he would not be received as the representative of Mosquera. This is not correct. It well known here that immediately after General Herran's arrival at New York our government was informed that he would proceed to Washington to act on his former credentials, and before any opinion in that respect could have been expressed by our government.

SENATOR BRIGHT NOT TO BE EXPELLED.

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary have come to the conclusion, six to one, to report against the expulsion of Senator Jesse D. Bright, of Indiana, the question involving his loyalty having been referred to them.

THE PRESIDENT AT THE CAPITOL.

The President, accompanied by his private secretaries, was at the room of the Vice President in the Capitol to-day, attending to public business.

NOT A DESERTER.

The name of Mathias Spoo, of the Fifth Wisconsin regiment, appeared among the list of deserters published in the HERALD. General Hancock assures me that Spoo is not a deserter. He was subject to attacks of insanity, and while suffering from one of these attacks is supposed to have wandered outside of our lines and to have been captured by the enemy's pickets. Aside from Spoo and another crazy soldier, who is now in an insane asylum, there has not been a desertion from General Hancock's brigade.

THE UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The United States Agricultural Society to-day re-elected President Hubbard, Secretary Poor, Treasurer French, and nearly all the old Vice Presidents. The Executive Committee was reorganized, and consists of Marshall P. Wilder, of Massachusetts; Fredk. Smyth, of New Hampshire; Isaac Newton, of Philadelphia; Chas. B. Calvert, of Maryland; Legrand Byington, of Iowa; J. H. Sullivan, of Ohio, and M. Meyers, of California. President Lincoln's recommendation of the establishment of an agricultural and statistical department was warmly commended, and he was elected an honorary member. The suggestions of the President's address were debated and endorsed, and a large edition was ordered to be printed. The establishment of an agricultural department was discussed and recommended. There was a decided expression of opinion against national exhibitions, unless they can be held at Washington.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9, 1862.

THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

Mr. COLLAMER, (rep.) of Vt., from the Post Office Committee, reported back the bill to promote the efficiency of the Dead Letter Office.

The bill provides that all dead letters be returned to the writers instead of being destroyed.

After a long discussion the bill was postponed till to-morrow.

EXPULSION OF WALDO P. JOHNSON, OF MISSOURI.

Mr. TRUMBULL, (rep.) of Ill., reported from the Judiciary Committee in favor of the resolution to expel Waldo P. Johnson, of Missouri.

MILITARY AFFAIRS, ETC.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., reported a bill to provide for the Signal Department of the army.

Also a bill for the organization of the staff of the divisions of the army.

Also a bill to increase the clerical force of the office of the Adjutant General.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, from the Select Committee on Compensation, &c., in the departments, reported a bill.

Also a bill to regulate the compensation of officers of the army.

Mr. COWAN, (rep.) of Pa., presented a petition from the homeopathic surgeons and physicians employed in the army.

Also a bill in relation to the appointment of chaplains in the army, and to allow Jewish chaplains.

ALLEGED GREAT FRAUDS BY ARMY AND NAVY CONTRACTORS.

Mr. HALE, (rep.) of N. H., presented a petition from citizens of Pennsylvania, which states as follows:—

Whereas, great frauds have been perpetrated on the Treasury by the appointment of Mr. Cummings by Mr. Cameron, and the appointment of Mr. Morgan by Mr. Welles, we therefore ask that a statute be enacted to prevent the appointment of persons without the statute therefor.

PUNISHMENT OF FRAUDS ON THE TREASURY.

Mr. HALE also introduced a bill to punish fraud on the Treasury. The bill provides that any person obtaining money fraudulently be punished with a fine to the amount of money and imprisonment at hard labor for not more than ten years. If any officer of the government do it he be discharged and punished, and ever after held ineligible for any office. Referred.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

A communication was received from the War Department transmitting the report of the Sanitary Commission. Referred.

THE TARIFF ON SUGAR AND COFFEE.

The House resolution in regard to bonded coffee and sugar, laid over yesterday, was taken up and passed by yeas 23, nays 15.

SPEECH OF MR. SUMNER ON THE TRENT AFFAIR.

The communication from the Secretary of State in regard to the Trent affair was taken up.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., said—Mr. President, every principle of international law, when justly and authoritatively settled, becomes a safeguard of peace and a landmark of civilization. It constitutes a part of that code which is the supreme law, above all municipal laws, binding the whole commonwealth of nations. Such a settlement may be by a general congress of nations, as at Munster, Vienna or Paris; or it may be through the general accord of treaties; or it may be by a precedent established under such conspicuous circumstances, with all nations as assenting witnesses, that it shall at once become in itself a commanding rule of international conduct. Especially is this the case, if disturbing pretensions long maintained to the detriment of civilization, are practically renounced by the Power which has maintained them. Without any congress or treaties such a precedent has been established. Such a precedent ought to be considered and understood in its true character. In undertaking to explain it, I shall speak for myself alone; but I shall speak frankly, according to the wise freedom of public debate, and the plain teachings of history on the question involved, trusting sincerely that what I say may contribute something to elevate the honest patriotism of the country, and perhaps secure that tranquil judgment which will render this precedent the herald, if not the guardian, of international harmony. Two old men and two younger associates, recently taken from the British mail packet Trent on the high seas, by order of Captain Wilkes, of the United States Navy, and afterwards detained in custody at Fort Warren, have been liberated, and placed at the disposition of the British government. This has been done at the instance of that government, courteously conveyed, and founded on the assumption that the original capture of these men was an act of violence which was an affront to the British flag and a violation of international law. This is a simple outline of the facts. But in order to appreciate the value of this precedent, there are other matters which must be brought into view. These two old men were citizens of the United States, and for many years Senators. One was the author of the Fugitive Slave bill, and the other was the chief author of the filibustering system, which has disgraced our national name and disturbed our national peace. Occupying places of trust and power in the service of their country, they conspired against it, and at last the secret traitors and conspirators became open rebels. The present rebellion, now surpassing in proportions and also in wickedness any rebellion in history, was from the beginning quickened and promoted by their untiring energies. That country to which they owed love, honor and obedience, they betrayed and gave over to violence and outrage. Treason, conspiracy and rebellion, each in succession, have acted through them. The incalculable expenditures which now tax our national resources, the untold derangement of affairs, not only at home, but also abroad, the levy of armies almost without an example, the devastation of extended regions of territory, the plunder of peaceful ships on the ocean, and the slaughter of fellow citizens on the murderous battle field—such are some of the consequences proceeding directly from them. To carry forward still further the gigantic crime of which they were so large a part, these two old men, with their two younger associates, stole from Charleston on board a rebel steamer, and, under cover of darkness and storm, running the blockade, and avoiding the cruisers in that neighborhood, succeeded in reaching the neutral island of Cuba, where, with open display and the knowledge of the British Consul, they embarked on board the British mail packet, the Trent, bound for St Thomas, whence they were to embark for England, in which kingdom one of them was to play the part of embassador of the rebellion, while the other was to play the same part in France. The original treason, conspiracy and rebellion of which they were so heinously guilty, were all continued on this voyage, which became a prolongation of the original crime, destined to still further excess, through their embassadorial pretensions, which, it was hoped, would array two great nations against the United States, and enlist them openly in behalf of an accursed slaveholding rebellion. While on their way the embassadors were arrested by Captain Wilkes, of the United States steamer San Jacinto, an accomplished officer, already well known by his scientific explorations, who, on this occasion, acted without instructions from his government. If, in this arrest, he forgot for a moment the fixed policy of the republic, which has been from the beginning like a frontlet between the eyes, and transcended the law of nations, as the United States have always declared it, his apology must be found in the patriotic impulse by which he was inspired, and the British examples which he could not forget. They were the enemies of his country, embodying in themselves the triple essence of worst enmity—treason, conspiracy and rebellion—and they wore a pretended embassadorial character, which, as he well knew, according to high British authority, rendered them liable to be stopped. If, in the ardor of an honest nature, Captain Wilkes erred, he might well say—

> Who can be wise, amazed, temperate and furious,
> Loyal and neutral in a moment? No man.
> The expedition of my violent love
> Outran the pauser reason.
> * Who could refrain
> That had a heart to love, and in that heart
> Courage to make its love known?

If this transaction be regarded exclusively in the light of British precedents; if we follow the seeming authority of the British Admiralty, speaking by its greatest voice; and especially if we accept the oft repeated example of British cruisers, upheld by the British government against the oft repeated protests of the United States, we shall not find it difficult to vindicate it. The act becomes questionable only when brought to the touchstone of those liberal principles, which, from the earliest times, the American government has openly avowed and sought to advance, and which other European nations have accepted with regard to the sea. Indeed, Great Britain cannot complain except by now adopting those identical principles; and should we undertake to vindicate the act, it can be done only by repudiating those identical principles. Our two cases will be reversed. In the struggle between Laertes and Hamlet, the two combatants exchanged rapiers; so that Hamlet was armed with the rapier of Laertes and Laertes was armed with the rapier of Hamlet. And now in this sensitive question a similar exchange has occurred. Great Britain is armed with American principles, while to us is left only those British principles which, throughout our history, have been constantly, deliberately, and solemnly rejected. Lord Russell, in his despatch to Lord Lyons, communicated to Mr. Seward, contents himself by saying that "it appears that certain individuals have been forcibly taken from on board a British vessel, the ship of a neutral Power, *while such vessel was pursuing a lawful and innocent voyage*—an act of violence which was an affront to the British flag, and a violation of international law." Here is a positive assertion that the ship, notoriously having on board the rebel emissaries, was pursuing a lawful and innocent voyage; but there is no specification of the precise ground on which the act in question is regarded as a violation of international law. Of course it is not an affront, for an accident can never be an affront to an individual or to a nation. But public report, authenticated by the concurring testimony of various authorities, English and Continental, forbids us to continue ignorant of the precise ground on which this act is presented as a violation of international law. It was admitted that a United States man-of-war, meeting a British mail steamer beyond the territorial limits of Great Britain, might subject her to visitation and search; also that the United States ship-of-war might put a prize crew on board the British steamer, and carry her off to a port of the United States for adjudication by a prize court there, but that she would have no right to remove the emissaries, who were not apparently officers in the military or naval service, and carry them off as prisoners, leaving the ship to pursue her voyage. Under the circumstances, in the excercise of a belligerent right, the British steamer, with all on board, might have been captured and carried off, but according to the British law officers, on whose professional opinion the British Cabinet has acted, the whole proceeding was vitiated by the failure to take the packet into port for condemnation. This failure has been the occasion of much unprofessional objurgation; and it has been emphatically repeated that it was impossible to consent that the custody of the individuals in question should be determined by a navy officer on his quarter deck, so as to supersede the adjudication of a prize court. This has been confidently stated by an English writer, assuming to put the case for his government, as follows:—

> It is not to the right of search that we object, *but to the following seizure without process of law.* What we deny is the right of a naval officer to stand in place of a prize court, and adjudicate, sword in hand, with a *sic volo sic jubeo* on the very deck which is a part of our territory.

Thus it appears that the present complaint of the British government is not founded on the assumption by the American war steamer of the belligerent right of search; nor on the ground that this right was exercised on board a neutral vessel between two neutral ports; nor that it was exercised on board a mail steamer, sustained by a subvention from the Crown, and officered in part from the royal navy; nor that it was exercised in a case where the penalties of contraband could not attach; but it is founded simply and precisely on the idea that persons other than apparent officers in the military or naval service, cannot be taken out of a neutral ship at the mere will of the officer who exercises the right of search, and without any form of trial. Therefore, the law of nations has been violated, and the conduct of Captain Wilkes must be disavowed, while men, who are traitors, conspirators, and rebels, all in one, are allowed to go free. Surely, that criminals, though dyed in guilt, should go free, is better than that the law of nations should be violated, especially in any rule by which war is restricted and the mood of peace is enlarged; for the law of nations cannot be violated without overturning the protection of the innocent as well as the guilty. On this general principle there can be no question. It is but an illustration of that important maxim, recorded in the Latin of Fortescue, "Better that many guilty should escape than one innocent man should suffer," with this difference, that in the present case a few guilty escape, while the innocent everywhere on the sea obtain new security. And this security becomes more valuable as a triumph of civilization, when it is considered that it was long refused, even at the cannon's mouth. Do not forget, sir, that the question involved in this controversy is *strictly a question of law*—precisely like a question of trespass between two neighbors. The British Cabinet began proceedings by taking the opinion of their law advisers, precisely as an individual begins proceedings in a suit at law by taking the opinion of his attorney. To make such a question *a case of war*, or to suggest that war is a proper mode of deciding it, is simply to revive, in colossal proportions, the exploded ordeal by battle, and to imitate those dark ages when such proceeding was openly declared to be the best and most honorable mode of deciding even an abstract point of law. "It was a matter of doubt and dispute," says an early historian, "whether the sons of a son ought to be reckoned among the children of the family, and succeed equally with their uncles, if their father happened to die while their grandfather was alive. An assembly was called to deliberate on this point, and it was the general opinion that it ought to be remitted to the examination and decision of judges. But the Emperor, following a better course, and desirous of dealing honorably with his people and nobles, appointed the matter to be decided by battle between two champions." In similar spirit has it been latterly proposed, amidst the amazement of the civilized world, to withdraw the point of law now raised by Great Britain, from peaceful adjudication and submit it to trial by combat. But the irrational anachronism of such a proposition becomes more flagrant from the inconsistency of the party which makes it; for it cannot be forgotten that in times past, *on this identical point of law*, Great Britain persistently held an opposite ground from that which she now takes. The British complaint seems to have been narrowed down to a single point; but it is not to be disguised that there are yet other points on which, had the ship been carried into port for adjudication, controversy must have arisen. Not to omit anything important, let me say that the three following points, among others, have been presented in the case:—

1. That the seizure of the rebel emissaries without taking the ship into port, was wrong, *inasmuch as a navy officer is not entitled to substitute himself for a judicial tribunal.*
2. That had the ship been carried into port, it would not have been liable on account of the rebel emissaries, inasmuch as neutral ships are free to carry all persons not apparently in the military or naval service of the enemy.
3. Are despatches contraband of war, so as to render the ship liable to seizure?

These matters I shall consider in their order, giving special attention to the first, which is the pivot of the British complaint. If in this discussion I shall expose grievances which it were better to forget, be assured it is from no willingness to awaken the slumbering animosities they once so justly aroused, but simply to exhibit the proud position on this question which the United States early and constantly maintained. A question of international law should not be presented on any mere *argumentum ad hominem*. It would be of little value to show that Captain Wilkes was sustained by British authority and practice, if he were condemned by international law as interpreted by his own country. It belongs to us now—say, let it be our pride, at any cost of individual prepossessions or transitory prejudices, to uphold that law in all its force, as it was often declared by the best men in our history, and illustrated by national acts; and let us seize the present occasion to consecrate its positive and unequivocal recognition. In exchange for the prisoners set free, we receive from Great Britain a practical assent, too long deferred, to a principle early propounded by our country, and standing forth on every page of our history. The same voice which asks for their liberation, renounces in the same breath an odious pretension, for whole generations the scourge of peaceful commerce. Great Britain throughout her municipal history has practically contributed to the establishment of [illegible] beyond all other nations. [illegible] institutions or principles which [illegible] she has given [illegible]ly, the writ of habeas corpus; thirdly, the [illegible] the press; fourthly, bill of rights; fifthly, the representative system; sixthly, the rules and orders of debate, constituting parliamentary law; and seventhly, the principle that the air is too pure for a slave to breathe—long ago declared and first made a reality by British law. No other nation can show such peaceful triumphs. But while thus entitled to our gratitude for glorious contributions to municipal law, we turn with dissent and sorrow from much which she has sought to fasten upon international law. In municipal questions Great Britain drew inspiration from her own native common law, which was instinct with freedom; but especially in maritime questions arising under the law of nations this Power seems to have acted on that obnoxious principle of the Roman law, positively discarded in municipal questions, *Quod principi placuit legis vigorem habet*, and too often, under this inspiration, to have imposed upon weaker nations her own arbitrary will. The time has been when she pretended to sovereignty over the seas surrounding the British isles, as far as Cape Finisterre to the south, and Vanstaten, in Norway, to the north. But, driven from this pretension, other pretensions, less local, but hardly less offensive, were avowed. The boast of "Rule, Britannia, rule the waves," was practically adopted by British courts of admiralty, and universal maritime rights were subjected to the special exigencies of British interests. In the consciousness of strength, and with a navy that could not be opposed, this Power has put chains upon the sea. The commerce of the United States, as it began to whiten the ocean, was cruelly decimated by these arbitrary pretensions. American ships and cargoes, while, in the language of Lord Russell, "pursuing a lawful and innocent voyage," suffered from the British admiralty courts more than from rock or tempest. Shipwreck was less frequent than confiscation; and when it came, it was easier to bear. But the loss of property stung less than the outrage of impressment, by which foreigners, under the protection of the American flag, and also American citizens, without any form of trial, and at the mere mandate of a navy officer, who for the moment acted as a judicial tribunal, were dragged away from the deck which should have been to them a sacred altar. This outrage, which was feebly vindicated by the municipal claim of Great Britain to the services of her own subjects, was enforced arrogantly and perpetually on the high seas, where municipal law is silent and international law alone prevails. The belligerent right of search, derived from international law, was employed for this purpose, and the quarter-deck of every British cruiser was made a floating judgment seat. The practice began early, and was continued constantly; nor did it discriminate among its victims. It is mentioned by Mr. Jefferson, and repeated by a British writer on international law, that two nephews of Washington, on their way home from Europe, were ravished from the protection of the American flag, without any judicial proceedings, and placed as common seamen under the ordinary discipline of British ships-of-war. The victims were counted by thousands. Lord Castlereagh himself admitted, on the floor of the House of Commons, that an inquiry instituted by the British government had discovered in the British fleet three thousand five hundred men claiming to be impressed Americans. At our Department of State six thousand cases were recorded, and it was estimated that at least as many more might have occurred, of which no information had been received. Thus, according to this official admission of the British Minister, there was reason to believe that the quarter deck of a British man-of-war had been made a floating judgment seat three thousand five hundred times, while, according to the records of our own State Department, it had been made a floating judgment seat six thousand times and upwards, and each time an American citizen had been taken from the protection of his flag without any form of trial known to the law. If a pretension so intrinsically lawless could be sanctioned by precedent, Great Britain would have succeeded in interpolating it into the law of nations. Protest, argument, negotiation, correspondence, and war itself—unhappily the last reason of republics as of kings—were all employed in vain by the United States to procure a renunciation of this intolerable pretension. The ablest papers in our diplomatic history are devoted to this purpose, and the only serious war in which we have been engaged, until summoned to encounter this rebellion, was to overcome by arms this very pretension which would not yield to reason. Beginning in the last century, the correspondence is at last closed by the recent reply of Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons. The long-continued occasion of conflict is now happily removed, and the pretension disappears forever—to take its place among the curiosities of the past. But I do not content myself with asserting the persistent opposition of the American government. It belongs to the argument, that I should exhibit this opposition and the precise ground on which it was placed—being identical with that now adopted by Great Britain. And here the testimony is complete. If you will kindly follow me, you shall see it from the beginning in the public life of our country, and in the authentic records of our government. This British pretension aroused and startled the administration of Washington, and Mr. Jefferson, his Secretary of State, was enlisted against it. In a letter to Thomas Pinckney, our Minister at London, dated June 11, 1792, he said:—

> The simplest rule will be that the vessel being American shall be evidence that the seamen on board her are such.

In another letter to the same Minister, dated October 12, 1792, he calls attention to a case of special outrage, as follows:—

> I enclose you a copy of a letter from Messrs. Blow and Melhado, merchants of Virginia, *complaining of the taking away of their sailor* on the coast of Africa by the commander of a British armed vessel. So many instances of this kind have happened that it is quite necessary that their government should explain themselves on the subject, and be led to disavow and punish such conduct.—*State Papers*, vol. 3, p. 574.

The same British pretension was put forth under the administration of John Adams, and was again encountered. Mr. Pickering, at that time Secretary of State, in a letter to Rufus King, our Minister at London, dated June 8, 1796, after repeating the rule proposed by Mr. Jefferson, says:—

> But it will be an important point gained, *if on the high seas our flag can protect those of whatever nation who shall sail under it.* And for this humanity, as well as interest, powerfully plead.—*State Papers*, vol. 3, p. 574.

And again, at a later day, during the same administration, Mr. Marshall, afterwards the venerated Chief Justice of the United States, and at the time Secretary of State, in his instructions to Rufus King, at London, dated September 20, 1800, says:—

> The impressment of our seamen is an injury of very serious magnitude, which deeply affects the feelings and the honor of the nation. * * * * Alien seamen, not British subjects, engaged in our merchant service, ought to be equally exempt with citizens. Britain has no pretext of right to their persons or to their service. *To tear them from our possession is at the same time an insult and an injury.* It is an act of violence for which there exists no palliative.—*State Papers*, vol. 2, p. 489.

The same British pretension showed itself constantly under the administration of Mr. Jefferson. Throughout the eight years of his Presidency the repeated outrages of British cruisers never for a moment allowed it to be forgotten. Mr. Madison during this full period was Secretary of State, and none of the varied productions of his pen are more masterly than those in which he exposed the tyranny of this pretension. In the course of this discussion he showed the special hardship found in the fact that the sailors were taken from the ship at the mere will of an officer, without any form of judicial proceedings, and thus early presented against the pretension of Great Britain the precise objection which is now adopted by her. Here are his emphatic words, in his celebrated instructions to Mr. Monroe, at that time our Minister at London, dated January 5, 1804—

> Taking reason and justice for the tests of this practice, *it is peculiarly indefensible, because it deprives the dearest rights of persons of a regular trial*, to which the most inconsiderable article of property captured on the high seas is entitled, and *leaves their destiny* to the will of an officer, sometimes cruel, often ignorant, and generally interested, by want of mariners, in his own decisions. Whenever property found in a neutral vessel is supposed to be liable, on any ground, to capture and condemnation, the rule in all cases is, that the question shall not be decided by the captor, but be carried before a legal tribunal, where a regular trial may be had, and where the captor himself is liable to damages for an abuse of his power. Can it be reasonable, then, or just, that a belligerent commander who is thus restricted, and thus responsible in a case of mere property of trivial amount, should be permitted, *without recurring to any tribunal whatever, to examine the crew of a neutral vessel, to decide the important question of their respective allegiances*, and to carry that decision into execution by forcing every individual he may choose into a service abhorrent to his feelings, cutting him off from his most tender connections, exposing his mind and his person to the most humiliating discipline, and his life itself to the greatest dangers? Reason, justice and humanity unite in protesting against so extravagant a proceeding.—*State Papers*, vol. 3, p. 84.

Negotiations, on this principle, thus distinctly declared, were intrusted at London to James Monroe, afterwards President of the United States, and to William Pinckney, the most accomplished master of prize law which our country has produced. But they were unsuccessful. Great Britain persisted. In a joint letter dated at London, September 11, 1806, the plenipotentiaries say:—

> That it was impossible that we should acknowledge in favor of any foreign Power *the claim to such jurisdiction on board our vessels* found upon the main ocean, *as this sort of impressment implied*—a claim as plainly inadmissible in its principle, and derogating from the unquestionable rights of our sovereignty, as it was vexatious in its practical consequences.—*State Papers*, vol. 3, p. 134.

In another joint letter dated at London, November 11, 1806, the same plenipotentiaries say:—

> The right was denied by the British commissioners, who *asserted that of their government to seize the subjects on board neutral merchant vessels on the high seas*, and who also urged that the relinquishment of it at this time would go far to the overthrow of their naval power, on which the safety of the State essentially depended.—*State Papers*, vol. 3, p. 133.

In still another letter, dated at London, April 22, 1807, Messrs. Monroe and Pinkney say of the British commissioners:—

> They stated that the prejudice of the navy and of the country generally was so strongly *in favor of their pretension* that the ministry could not encounter it in a direct form; and that in truth the support of Parliament could not have been relied on in such a case.—*State Papers*, vol. 3, p. 160.

The British commissioners were two excellent persons—Lord Holland and Lord Auckland; but though friendly to the United States in their declarations, and liberals in politics, they were powerless. At home, in the United States, the question continued to be discussed by able writers. Among those whose opinions were of the highest authority, was the late President, John Adams, who, from his retirement at Quincy, sent forth a pamphlet dated January 9, 1809, in which the British pretension was touched to the quick; and again the precise objection was presented which is now urged by Great Britain. Depicting the scene when one of our ships is encountered by a British cruiser, he says:—

> The lieutenant is to be the judge, the midshipman is to be clerk, and the boatswain sheriff or marshal. * * * * It is impossible to figure to ourselves, in imagination, this solemn tribunal and venerable judge without smiling, till the humiliation of our country comes into our thoughts and interrupts the sense of ridicule by the tears of grief or vengeance.—*John Adams' Works*, vol. 9, p. 312.

At last all redress through negotiation was found to be impossible, and this pretension, [illegible] tyranny, was [illegible] announced to be one of the principal reasons for the declaration of war against Great Britain in 1812. In his message to Congress, dated June 1, of that year, Mr. Madison, who was now President, thus exposed the offensive character of the pretension; and his words, directed against a persistent practice, are now echoed by Great Britain, in the single instance which has accidentally occurred:—

> Could the seizure of British subjects in such cases be regarded as within the exercise of a belligerent right, the acknowledged laws of war, which forbid an article of captured property to be adjudged without a regular investigation before a competent tribunal, *would imperiously demand the fairest trial where the sacred rights of persons were at issue. In place of such a trial, these rights are subjected to the will of every petty commander.*—*Statesman's Manual*, vol. 1, p. 294.

While the war was waging the subject was still discussed. Mr. Grundy, in the House of Representatives, in a report from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, said:—

> A subaltern or any other officer of the British Navy ought not to be arbiter in such a case. The liberties and lives of American citizens ought not to depend on the will of such a party.—State Papers, vol. 3, p. 693.

Such was the American ground. The British pretension was unhesitatingly proclaimed in the declaration of the Prince Regent, afterwards George IV., given at the palace of Westminster, January 9, 1813:—

> The President of the United States has, it is true, since proposed to Great Britain an armistice; not, however, on the admission that the cause of war hitherto relied on was removed; but on condition that Great Britain, as a preliminary step, should do away a cause of war now brought forward *as such for the first time—namely, that she should abandon the exercise of her* UNDOUBTED RIGHT *of search to take from American merchant vessels British seamen, the natural born subjects of his Majesty.*
>
> His royal Highness can never admit that, in the exercise of the UNDOUBTED *and hitherto undisputed right of searching neutral merchant vessels in time of war, the impressment of British seamen, when found therein, can be deemed any violation of a neutral flag.* Neither can he admit that the taking of such seamen from on board such vessels *can be considered by any neutral State as a hostile measure or a justifiable cause of war.*

The war was closed by the treaty at Ghent; but perversely the British pretension was not renounced. Other negotiations in 1818, under President Monroe; in 1823, also under Monroe; and again in 1827, under John Quincy Adams, expressly to procure its renunciation, were all unavailing. At last, in 1842, at the treaty of Washington, Mr. Webster, calmly setting aside all idea of further negotiation on this pretension, and without even proposing any stipulation with regard to it, deliberately announced the principle irrevocably adopted by our government. It was the principle early announced at the beginning of the republic by Mr. Jefferson. This despatch is one of the most memorable in our history, and it bears directly on the existing controversy when, in exposing the British pretension, it says:—

> But the lieutenant of a man-of-war, having necessity for men, *is apt to be a summary judge*, and his decisions will be quite as significant of his own wants and his own power as of the truth and justice of the case.—*Webster's Works*, vol. 6, p. 323.

At a later day still, on the very eve of recent events, we find General Cass, as Secretary of State, in his elaborate instructions to our Ministers in Europe, dated 27th June, 1859, declaring principles which may properly control the present question. He says:—

> It is obvious, from the temper of the age, that the present is no safe time to assert and enforce pretensions on the part of belligerent Powers affecting the interest of nations at peace, *unless such pretensions are clearly justified by the law of nations.* * * * * The stopping of neutral vessels upon the high seas, their forcible entrance, and the overhauling and examination of their cargoes, the *seizure of their freight, at the will of a foreign officer*, the frequent interruption of their voyages by compelling them to change their destination, in order to seek redress; and, *above all, the abuses which are so prone to accompany the exercise of unlimited power*, where responsibility is remote; these are, indeed, serious obstructions, little likely to be submitted to in the present state of the world without a formidable effort to prevent them.

Such is an authentic history of this British pretension, and of the manner in which it has been met by our government. And now the special argument formerly directed by us against this pretension is directed by Great Britain against the pretension of Captain Wilkes to take two rebel emissaries from a British packet ship. If Captain Wilkes is right in this pretension, then throughout all these international debates, extending over at least two generations, we have been wrong. But it has been sometimes said the steam packet having on board the rebel emissaries was on this account liable to capture, and therefore the error of Captain Wilkes in taking the emissaries was simply an error of form and not of substance. I do not stop to consider whether an exercise of summary power against which our government has so constantly protested can be under any circumstances an error merely of form; for the policy of our government, most positively declared in its diplomacy, and also attested in numerous treaties, leaves no room to doubt that a neutral ship with belligerent passengers—not in the military or naval service—is not liable to capture, and therefore the whole proceeding was wrong, not only because the passengers were taken from the ship, but also because the ship, howsoever guilty morally, was not guilty legally in receiving such passengers on board. If this question were argued on English authorities it might be otherwise; but, according to American principles, the ship was legally innocent. Of course, I say nothing of the moral guilt forever indelible in that ship. In the middle of the last century, the Swiss professor, Vattel, declared that on the breaking out of war we cease to be under any obligation of leaving the enemy to the free enjoyment of his rights; and this principle he applied to the transit of ambassadors. (Vattel, book 4, chap. 7, sec. 85.) Sir William Scott, quoting this authority, at the beginning of the present century, laid it down as follows —

> The belligerent may stop the embassador of the enemy on his passage.—*The Atalanta*, 6 *Robinson R.*, p. 440.

And this curt proposition, though in some respects indefinite, has been often repeated since by writers on the law of nations. On its face it leaves the question unsettled, whether the emissaries of an unrecognized government can be stopped. But there is another case in which the same British judge, who has done so much to illustrate international law, has used language which seems to embrace not only authentic embassadors, but also pretenders to this character, and all others who are public agents of the enemy. Says this eminent magistrate:—

> It appears to me on *principle* to be but reasonable that whenever it is of sufficient importance to the enemy that *such persons should be sent out on the public service at the public expense*, it should afford equal ground of forfeiture against the vessel that may be let out for a purpose so intimately connected with hostile operations.—*The Orozembo*, 6 *Robinson R.*, p. 434.

Admit that the emissaries of an unrecognized government cannot be recognized as embassadors with the liabilities as well as immunities of this character, yet, in the face of these words it is difficult to see how a government bowing habitually to the authority of Sir William Scott, and regarding our rebels as "belligerents," can insert it at a steam packet, conveying emissaries from these belligerents, "sent out on the public service and at the public expense," was, according to the language of Lord Russell, "pursuing a lawful and innocent voyage." At least, in this assertion this government seems to turn its back again upon its own history; or it sets aside the facts so openly boasted with regard to the public character of these fugitives. On this question British policy may change with circumstances, and British precedents may be uncertain, but the original American policy is unchangeable, and the American precedents which illustrate it are solemn treaties. The words of Vattel, and the judgments of Sir William Scott, were well known to the statesmen of the United States; and yet, in the face of these authorities, which have entered so largely into this debate, the American government at an early day deliberately adopted a contrary policy, to which, for half a century, it has steadily adhered. It was plainly declared that *only soldiers or officers could be stopped*, thus positively excluding the idea of stopping embassadors, or emissaries of any kind, not in the military or naval service. Mr. Madison, who more than any other person shaped our national policy on maritime rights, has stated it on this question. In his remarkable despatch to Mr. Monroe, at London, dated January 5, 1804, he says:—

> The article renounces the claim to take from the vessels of the neutral party, on the high seas, any person whatever *not in the military service of an enemy*, an exception which we admit to come within the law of nations, on the subject of contraband of war. *With this exception, we consider a neutral flag on the high seas as a safeguard to those sailing under it.*—*State Papers*, vol. 3, p. 83.

Then again, in the same despatch, Mr. Madison says:—

> Great Britain, then, must produce an exception in the law of nations in favor of the right she contends for. In what written and received authority will she find it? In what usage except her own will it be found? * * * * But nowhere will she find an exception to this freedom of the seas and of neutral flags, which justifies the taking away of any person, *not an enemy in military service*, found on board a neutral vessel.—*Ibid.*, p. 84.

And then, again, in the same despatch, he says:—

> Whenever a belligerent claim against persons on board a neutral vessel is referred to in treaties *enemies in military service* alone are excepted from the general immunity of persons in that situation; and *this exception confirms the immunity of those who are not included in it.*—*Ibid.*, p. 84.

It was in pursuance of this principle, thus clearly announced and repeated, that Mr. Madison instructed Mr. Monroe to propose a convention between the United States and Great Britain, containing the following stipulation:—

> No person whatever shall, upon the high seas and without the jurisdiction of either party, be demanded or taken out of any ship or vessel belonging to citizens or subjects of one of the parties, by the public or private armed ships belonging to or in the service of the other, *unless such person be at the time in the military service of an enemy of such other party.*—*Ibid.*, p. 82.

Mr. Monroe pressed this stipulation most earnestly upon the British government; but though treated courteously, he could get no satisfaction with regard to it. Lord Harrowby, the Foreign Secretary, in one of his conversations, "expressed a concern to find the United States opposed to Great Britain on certain great neutral questions in favor of the doctrines of the modern law, which he termed novelties." (State Papers, vol. 3, p. 99.) And Lord Mulgrave, who succeeded this accomplished nobleman, persevered in the same dissent. Mr. Monroe writes, under date of 18th of October, 1805:—

> On a review of the conduct of this government towards the United States I am inclined to think that the delay which has been so studiously sought is part of a system, and that it is intended, as circumstances favor, to subject our commerce at present and hereafter to every restraint in their power.—*State Papers*, vol. 3, p. 107.

Afterwards Mr. Monroe was joined by Mr. Pinkney in the mission to London, and the two united in presenting this same proposition again to the British government. (State Papers, vol. 3, p. 137.) It was rejected, although the ministry of Mr Fox, who was then in power, seems to have afforded at one time the expectation of an agreement. While these distinguished plenipotentiaries were pressing this principle at London, Mr. Madison was maintaining it at home. In an unpublished communication to Mr. Merry, the British Minister at Washington, bearing date 9th April, 1805, which I extract from the files of the State Department, he declared:—

> The United States cannot accede to the claim of any nation to take from their vessels on the high seas *any description of persons, except soldiers in the actual service of the enemy.*

In a reply bearing date 12th April, [illegible] that the two governments were ranged unequivocally on opposite sides. The treaties of the United States with foreign nations are in harmony with this principle so energetically proposed and upheld by Mr. Madison. In the treaty of commerce with France, in 1778, it is expressly provided that:—

> Enemies to both or either party are not to be taken out of the said ships, *unless they are soldiers and in actual service of the enemies.*—Statutes at Large, vol. 8, p. 28.

In the treaty with the Netherlands, in 1782, the exception is confined to "military men actually in the service of an enemy," (Ibid., p. 38,) and this same exception will also be found in the treaty with Sweden, in 1783, (Ibid., p. 64;) with Prussia, in 1785, (Ibid., p. 90;) with Spain, in 1795, (Ibid., p. 140;) with France, in 1800, (Ibid., p. 184,) with Columbia, in 1824, (Ibid., p. 312;) with Central America, in 1825, (Ibid., p. 32[illegible];) with Brazil, in 1828, (Ibid., p. 393,) with Mexico, in 1831, (Ibid., p. 416;) with Chile, in 1832, (Ibid., p. 436;) with Venezuela, in 1836, (Ibid., p. 472;) with Peru-Bolivia, in 1836, (Ibid., p. 490;) with Ecuador, in 1839, (Ibid., p. 540;) with New Granada, in 1846, (Statutes, vol. 9, p. 888;) with Guatemala, in 1849, (Statutes, vol. 10, p. 880;) with San Salvador, in 1850, (Ibid., p. 894,) and in the treaty with Peru, in 1851, (Ibid., p. 930.) Such is the unbroken testimony, in the most solemn form, to the policy of our government. In some of the treaties the exception is simply "soldiers," in others it is "officers or soldiers." It is true that among these treaties there is none with Great Britain; but it is also true, that this is simply because this Power refused its assent when this principle was presented by our government as an undoubted part of international law which it desired to confirm by treaty. Clearly and beyond all question, according to American principles and practice, the ship was not liable to capture on account of the presence of emissaries, "not soldiers or officers," nor could such emissaries be legally taken from the ship. But the completeness of this authority is increased by the concurring testimony of the Continent of Europe. Since the peace of Utrecht, in 1713, the policy of the continental States has refused to sanction the removal of enemies from a neutral ship, unless military men in active service. And now, since this debate has commenced, we have the positive testimony of the French government to the same principle, given with special reference to the present case. M. Thouvenel, the Minister of the Emperor for Foreign Affairs, in a recent letter to Mr. Seward, published with the papers now before the Senate, earnestly insists that the rebel emissaries, not being military persons actually in the service of the enemy, were not subject to seizure on board a neutral ship. I leave this part of the subject with the remark that it is Great Britain alone whose position on this question can be brought into doubt. But still another question occurs. Beyond all question, there were "despatches" from the rebel belligerents on board the ship—such "despatches" as rebels can write. Public report, the statement of persons on board the ship, and the boastful declaration of Jefferson Davis in a public document, that these emissaries were proceeding under an appointment from him—which appointment would be a "despatch" of the highest character—seem to place this fact beyond denial. Assuming this fact, the ship was liable to capture and to be carried off for adjudication, according to British authorities; unless the positive judgment of Sir William Scott in the case of the Atalanta, (6 Robinson R., p. 440), and also the Queen's proclamation at the commencement of this rebellion, where "despatches" are enumerated among contraband articles, are treated as nullities, or so far modified in their application as to be words, and nothing more. But however binding and peremptory these authorities may be in Great Britain, they cannot be accepted to reverse the standing policy of the United States, which here again leaves no room for doubt. In order to give precision to the rights which it claimed and at the same time accorded on the ocean, our government has sought to explain in treaties what it meant by contraband. As early as 1785, in the treaty with Prussia, after specifying contraband articles, without including despatches, it is declared that:—

> Free goods are all other merchandise and *things* which are not comprehended and particularly mentioned in the foregoing enumeration of contraband goods.—*Statutes at Large*, vol. 8, p. 165.

In other treaties, subsequent to the judgment of Sir William Scott, recognizing despatches as contraband, and therefore practically discarding it, after enumerating contraband articles, without specifying "despatches," the following provision is introduced:—

> All other merchandises and *things* not comprehended in the articles of contraband explicitly enumerated and classified as above, shall be held and considered as free.—*Ibid.*, p. 312; *Treaty with Colombia and later treaties passim.*

Thus we have not only positive words of enumeration, without mentioning "despatches," but also positive words of exclusion, so that despatches cannot be considered as contraband. These treaties constitute the conclusive record of our government on this question. And here let me remark that, while decisions of British Admiralty Courts on all these matters are freely cited, no decisions of our Supreme Court are cited. Of course, if any existed, they would be of the highest value, but there are none, and the reason is obvious. These matters could not arise before our Supreme Court, because under our government they are so clearly settled by treaties and diplomacy as to be beyond question. Clearly, then, and beyond all question, according to American principles and practice, the ship was not liable to capture on account of despatches on board. And here again we have the concurring testimony of continental Europe, and especially of the French government, to the recent letter of M. Thouvenel.

[CONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE.]

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

What Will the Yankees Do with the Contrabands?

COTTON CULTURE IN THE NORTHWEST

A PROSPECTIVE VIEW OF THE WAR.

The Rabid Tone of the Southern Press.

AN ARISTOCRACY FOR THE SOUTH.

MATTERS AT THE REBEL CAPITAL.

Reported Rebel Victory on the Arkansas Border,

&c., &c., &c.

We have received another instalment of Southern newspapers, among which are the following:—

Charleston Courier	January 3.
Memphis Appeal	December 22.
Norfolk Day Book	January 8.
Richmond Examiner	January 2 and 3
Richmond Dispatch	January 6.

These papers, as will be seen, are of recent dates, and will repay the general reader in the perusal of the extracts we have collected.

VIRGINIA.

WHAT WILL THE YANKEES DO WITH THE "CONTRABANDS?"

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Jan. 1.]

Nothing seems to give our good friends, the Yankees, so much trouble as the "contraband," or, in other words, the negroes they have stolen from Southern plantations. They are utterly at a loss what to do with them. They cannot send them to Liberia, for Liberia has set up for herself, and will soon have an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of her own at the Court of the White House, and her consent must be obtained before so many lazy, ignorant vagabonds can be packed upon her. They cannot turn them loose in Central or South America, for they own no land there, and John Bull, backed by France and Spain, is determined that the "area of freedom" shall not be enlarged in that direction. They will not let them settle in Yankeedom, for of all things in nature a negro is most detestable to a Yankee. In this dilemma, "certain prominent members of Congress," as we are assured by that mirror of truth, the Washington Star, are coming forward to solve the difficulty. "They are considering," says the Star, "a new proposition for the solution of the 'contraband' question, in order to avoid the expense of supporting crowds of slaves in idleness, and to furnish the American mills with cotton."

The latter part of the sentence is the key to all Yankee movements. *They have found out that cotton is king after all. They are mad for cotton.* Put a bale in their sight and they fall into convulsions, as a rabid dog when he sees a vessel of water. They can't get cotton, and they are prepared to go to all lengths for it. Their present scheme is a very wise one. "They take the ground," says the Star, "that the Indian Territory west of Louisiana and Arkansas was ceded to the United States by treaty and on certain conditions." The Indians having violated the treaties and spurned the obligations, it is proposed by these long headed Congressmen to occupy their territory and put the contrabands in possession of it. The plantations of the Choctaws and Chickasaws alone, the Star tells us, could fully supply the American mills the first year; and, as Cuff is famous for making cotton only when he is compelled, a system of apprenticeship is to be established, to take the labor that is in him out of him. "The country is approached," it seems, "from St. Louis through Springfield, a distance of three hundred miles." "The remainder of the railroad from [illegible] to Fort Smith can be completed in twelve months." "The country thus reverting to the government embraces the valleys of the Red, Arkansas and other rivers, and contains 20,000,000 acres of unsurpassed fertility, capable of producing 15,000,000 bales of cotton per annum."

This is certainly a grand scheme, and does credit to the "prominent members of Congress" who concocted it. As there will be some difficulties in carrying it out, we venture to point them out to the "prominent members of Congress," that being forewarned they may be forearmed:—First, there is a man named Sterling Price living out in Missouri, on the line of this railroad, who will be sure to object to it, and, if not summarily dealt with, will be very apt to thwart it. He is a man whom it will not do to despise. Some time ago a body of federal troops was attempting to get to Arkansas through this very Springfield, when this fellow Price fell in with them there, and cut them into ribbons. We are not sure that what were left of them are done running yet. Nay, he followed them up and took a whole army of them [illegible] so certain that he will not have St. Louis in possession before the "prominent members" can start the first cargo to the promised land of cotton and glory. Now it is certain that Price will raise his back against this scheme, wise as it is; and as he has something like fifty thousand men at his back and call, and is a desperate fighter, there is a chance that he may cause trouble. In the second place, after disposing of Price, it is but too probable that the Choctaws and Chickasaws may not be willing to give up their lands at the bidding of "prominent members." They number some eight or ten thousand warriors, and would have at their back all Arkansas, all Western Louisiana and all Eastern Texas. This scheme will not do. We can put the "prominent members" on a better. Let them drive out the whites from Louisiana and Mississippi, and plant the "contrabands" there. They will only have to walk over the bodies of some hundred and fifty thousand men, and to a bloodthirsty Bull Trotter this would hardly furnish food for a breakfast. If they object to this as an enterprise too easy of accomplishment, let them take in Georgia and Alabama, or Arkansas and Texas, or all of them together. If Yankees were not so notoriously bloodthirsty, we have yet a scheme in reserve, which we would submit to the "prominent members." In doing so we betray confidence, but we feel justified by the occasion. A great English astronomer has made discoveries through the telescope of the Earl of Ross, which threw all others—even those revealed by Locke twenty-five years ago—into the shade. He has found that there are magnificent cotton lands in the moon, and not a Choctaw or a Chickasaw any where near. Let the "prominent members" forthwith seize them for the benefit of the "contrabands." It will be much easier than it is to take the lands of the Chickasaws and Choctaws. Professor Lowe can furnish them with transportation. Let them apply at once. They will give him an opportunity of doing something really useful.

THE REBELS COURT AN ARISTOCRACY—LIBERTY AND LAW.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 31.]

Great Britain certainly is better entitled to this appellation than the United States was even at the best period of its existence. It is true that we never had a king, nor a hereditary aristocracy; but the sovereign of England is a mere weathercock upon the church spire, for ornament rather than use, and for use only so far as it yields to the current of public opinion. *Its aristocracy has generally the merit of at least a thousand years of good blood*; it is no mushroom affair, like the laughable imitations on this continent; it is composed of the *best gentlemen of the land*, whose well ascertained position enables them to be kind and affable to those beneath them, without hazard to their own dignity.

Instead of being dangerous to liberty the aristocracy of England has been its most trustworthy friend and champion. In the United States there was always a tyrant—the mob—which, in the developements of the last year, has proved that of all tyrants it is the most absolute, irresponsible, bloody, ignorant, brutal and base. Did it ever, in its best days, demonstrate the capacity for self-government which cringing and place hunting demagogues ascribed to it? Did it choose the best men for President, or for Governor, or for members of Congress, or for anything else wherein its choice was exercised? Was not the truly great man, who acted upon principle (if ever such men since George Washington have lived in America) and dared to rebuke the popular tyrants for his evil propensities, and did not pretend to believe that the [illegible] of fallen humanity is any more likely to be *vox Dei* than *vox diaboli*, sure to sign and seal his own political perdition? Look at the "virtuous and intelligent people" of the United States by the lurid flames of this infernal invasion, and is there any tyrant of modern or ancient times who can approach this monster in the variety and magnitude of his vile passions and atrocious crimes? What tyranny is there, what deed of wickedness, what violation of liberty, what moral debasement, from the cold blooded massacre of women and children to the most petit larceny, which has not been performed by the representatives of the United States, and approved by the "virtuous and intelligent people?" What chance is there for so much as a protest of the few wise and good men in its own section against the most tyrannical and inhuman act which the despotic mob, through its Washington representative, may perform? The silence of death, or the Bastile, is the only alternative which the despot presents.

We have long been of opinion that, with all the talk about liberty and equality in the United States, there was less of either, and certainly a vast inferiority in the administration of justice, to Great Britain. It is true, social equality in England is unknown, and so it is everywhere, and nowhere more than it is in the Union, where an upstart moneyed aristocracy, having neither education, good blood, nor good manners, has uniformly treated the poor with a degree of brutality and tyranny unparalleled in any part of the world. *But equality in the administration of justice is a reality in Great Britain, as it never was in the United States.* Here money could always save a ruffian from the consequences of his crime; there the proudest nobleman and the wealthiest commoner who violated the laws of the land have no more chance of escape before an English judge and jury than the meanest occupant of St. Giles. England is a land of law in fact as well as in name—a land where every man's life and property, as well as liberty, are secure; a land which, in its conservative spirit, its equal administration of justice, and its practical sympathy with the poor and humble, our own new country may well adopt as its model.

In looking over a late file of London papers we observed one of its solid columns of editorials devoted to a case which in an American newspaper would have scarcely occupied ten lines of a local. It was a case of a boy, who, for throwing a stone in a baronet's window, had been fined twenty shillings and sent to prison for a month, while a man who had committed the same offence upon the window of a publican had been discharged on the payment of a small fine, and without any abridgement of his

Madame Grisi's Farewell Performance—Intense Enthusiasm of the Audience—An Amusing Incident.

[From the London News, Dec. 25.]

On Saturday evening Madame Grisi made "her last appearance on any stage in the United Kingdom," being the occasion of her farewell benefit at the Theatre Royal, Dublin. The attendance was numerous, though not quite so much so as might have been expected under the circumstances. The opera was "Norma," and the cast embraced Miss Ellen Conran (Adalgisa), Signor Cassol (Oroveso), and Signor Galvani (Pollio), the favorite prima donna herself being, of course, the Norma. As the performance proceeded the enthusiasm of the audience displayed itself with true Irish vigor when any opportunity called it forth, and Madame Grisi was repeatedly summoned before the curtain, receiving each time the customary floral tributes of admiration. In these honors Miss Conran (the accomplished daughter of a distinguished musician in Dublin) participated to an almost equal extent, Madame Grisi always leading her forward to let the audience see that she considered her a deserving object of their applause. When at the close of the performance Madame Grisi was led forward to receive the final ovation, the plaudits which greeted her abundantly testified to the popular belief that, although retiring from the stage, she had left no equal upon it. A farewell address, framed as it were in flowers, was at this moment lowered to the feet of the great artiste, by a cord attached to each side of the upper gallery.

The address having been presented to Madame Grisi by Miss Ellen Conran, amid an outburst of the wildest enthusiasm, Mr. Russell, the representative of Mr. Beale on this occasion, came forward and delivered the following reply from the renowned prima donna, who was so overpowered by emotion that she felt herself unequal to the task of reading it:—

IRISH FRIENDS—I have so many things to say to you, which fill my heart and would find utterance by my lips, that I should require time and tranquillity to arrange and to express them worthily. But how can I find this necessary calmness in a moment so full of the various emotions which agitate and excite my feelings? I must, therefore, beg you to supply by your kind indulgence the want of adequate expression which I feel. For how can I possibly express to you my gratitude for the many proofs of long-enduring sympathy and affection which the good and generous Irishmen, and especially you, citizens of Dublin, have showered upon me, not only now, but heretofore? And how can I express to you the regret and grief which oppress me at leaving you for ever? My heart—full of gratitude and unchangeable affection—will cherish an eternal remembrance of all that I owe to you. May God grant to your beautiful Ireland all the happiness and prosperity it would desire and so well deserves. This is the prayer of a daughter of the old Roman nation, who will always feel towards green Erin as towards her own native land. Adieu, then, since so it must be. Were I younger I would say, "till our next meeting;" but love, like Providence, is everywhere, and wherever I may be my heart will share your joys and your sorrows. God bless old Ireland. Adieu.

The reading of the address was frequently interrupted by vehement plaudits, in which the whole house joined, and Madame Grisi retired from the scene deeply affected by this popular manifestation. On her departure from the theatre a vast crowd had assembled outside the building; an open carriage occupied by gentlemen bearing flambeaux in various colors was drawn up in front of the stage door, followed by Madame Grisi's own carriage, to which four horses were attached, and on the top of which were mounted several persons also bearing torches. The procession thus formed proceeded to Morrison's Hotel, where Madame Grisi alighted, amid the renewed demonstrations of her admirers, at whose request she appeared on the balcony and expressed her graceful appreciation of the many proofs of kind esteem which she had so often received from the Irish public. The acclamations of the people were continued with such unabated fervor that Madame Grisi, to their surprise no less than their delight, sang, with her accustomed sweetness and expression, a stanza from "The Last Rose of Summer;" and when she had concluded the tumult was so great that had it been continued the interference of the police might have been necessary, but Madame Grisi, reiterating her thanks, gracefully withdrew.

MADAME GRISI AND THE IRISH TOWN COUNCILLOR.

The Dublin *Freeman's Journal* gives the following discussion, which took place at a recent meeting of the improvement department of the Cork Town Council:—

Mr. SHEEHAN—Sir, there was a very great mistake made at the Council, on Monday last, about me and Madame Greasy. (Laughter.) I assure ye that people said I went to visit her in her room, but I did not, sir. I was only below stairs with the head proprietor, and she was up stairs in bed, and if she was up I would be introduced to her by the head proprietor of the hotel and her husband—his name is "O'Mahony." (Roars of laughter.) I was introduced to him, sir, by a great professional man here—by gor I forgot his name—and he is very much annoyed, her husband is, as it was said I was introduced to her and she was not up—(renewed laughter)—but I would, and no mistake about it, only she was not up, so he was very much annoyed when he heard of it, and I told him it was not the fact. She is the greatest player we have in the world, and it was reported generally I was speaking to her and she in bed; but that is not true. She is a very excellent player, and he is a very excellent man and a singer.

Mr. JULIAN—It was publicly reported you boasted you were introduced to her.

Mr. SHEEHAN—Indeed, I was not; but if she was up I would, by the head proprietor—no mistake about it.

Mr. WM. HEGARTY—There are reporters taking this logic down.

Mr. SHEEHAN—And why not, sir? It was down in the papers that I was introduced to her.

Mr. Hegarty continued for some time to expostulate with Mr. Sheehan in a low tone, and pointing towards the reporters.

The proceedings then terminated.

The Cork *Constitution* gives the following particulars of the cause of the above:—"It was stated by some of the members of the Board that the event Mr. Sheehan referred to was the following:—A Cork gentleman, it seems, introduced Mr. Sheehan to another gentleman with a large moustache and foreign appearance, at the door of the Victoria Hotel on Tuesday last, representing the foreigner to be Signor Mario, Madame Grisi's husband. The Cork gentleman further stated that the distinguished Italian could not speak English, but that he was of immense ferocity, and desired to fight a duel with Mr. Sheehan, on account of the reports that had been circulated as to Mr. Sheehan having conversed with Madame Grisi in her bedroom the first morning of her arrival here. Mr. Sheehan readily gave the explanations necessary on the subject, stating the utter incorrectness of the report, and his desire to find out its originators. After some further conversation all parties got satisfied, and Mr. Sheehan terminated the interview on excellent terms with his new friend."

New Hampshire Democratic State Convention.

CONCORD, N. H., Jan. 8, 1862.

The Democratic State Convention was held here to-day, and nominated, by acclamation, George Stark, of Nashua, for Governor, and James S. Cheney, of Manchester, for Railroad Commissioner.

The Convention was largely attended, and the spirit manifested was firm and uncompromising in favor of sustaining the Union and constitution.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

THURSDAY, Jan. 9—6 P. M.

The movement in gold and exchange continues. All the brokers were buyers of the former to-day at 4 a 4¼, and it was not easy to purchase any large amounts under 4⅜ a ½. An inquiry has sprung up for silver likewise, which has been held at one per cent premium. For two or three years the supply of silver currency has been in excess of the wants of trade; it has been growing scarcer within the past day or two. People need not distress themselves about these phenomena. As soon as Congress performs its duty and passes a proper tax bill, raising a revenue by direct taxation sufficient to meet the whole interest on the debt and to pay off a part of the principal, bullion will fall more rapidly than it has risen. There is far more silver and gold in the country than is required for the purposes of commerce; they rise to a premium simply because people are not satisfied that Congress will have the moral courage and the common sense to impose the direct taxes which are necessary.

Money can be had at six per cent on call, though many of the old loans still remain out at seven. Paper ranges from 7 to 8 for first class, and 9 to 10 and upwards for less popular names.

The stock market continues to exhibit firmness, with a moderate amount of business. The prospect of large issues of government paper is producing its usual effect in increasing the willingness of the public to buy stocks. But speculators must not expect to see the fancy stocks advancing one or two per cent every day. In the first place, no actual issue of paper money to any great extent has yet taken place. Secondly, the securities which first feel the effect of such a crisis as the present are reliable dividend paying stocks and bonds, not mere speculative fancies. An inspection of the bond list shows that all first class bonds have advanced considerably within the past few days. For Erie firsts 101 is bid, Hudson firsts are selling at 106½, Michigan Central eighths are worth 98, Michigan Southern firsts, 85½; Erie fifths, 73; Galena firsts, par, and so on. These are the first securities which the recipients of government paper naturally buy, in order to earn interest on their money. As the market becomes cleared of the most popular classes of bonds dividend paying stocks begin to attract attention. Pacific Mail, for instance, has risen to 96, and is scarce at the advance. It sold at par, dividend off, before the Trent outrage, but fell 17 per cent in a few days, when war with Europe seemed imminent. The friends of the company state that it will actually earn over 15 per cent on its capital during the current quarter; and in view of the large sums obtained from government for the charters of the Constitution, Atlantic and Baltic (the last two being half owned by the Pacific Mail Company), and of the active business on the boats of the line, the statement can readily be credited. Whether the February dividend will be increased to ten per cent no one seems to know; but it is easy to understand that a stock which pays at least twenty per cent annually, and may pay twenty-three to thirty, should attract the attention of parties who are in search of lucrative investments. The Western shares are inactive, but in good demand. Erie securities of all classes are likewise in request. There was no particular change in prices to-day. The market closed firm, the following being the last quotations:—United States 6's, registered, 1881, 88¼ a 89; United States 6's, coupon, 1881, 89¼ a 89½; United States 5's, coupon, 1874, 79¼ a ½; Indiana 5's, 75; Virginia 6's, 48 a 50; Tennessee 6's, 42¾ a 43¼; North Carolina 6's, 60½; Missouri 6's, 41⅝ a ⅝; Pacific Mail Steamship Company, 95¾ a 96; New York Central Railroad, 81¾ a ⅞; Erie, 34⅛ a ¼; do. preferred, 60 a ¾; Hudson River, 39 a ⅜; Harlem, 12¾ a 13; do. preferred, 30⅛ a 31; Reading, 36¾ a 36⅞; Michigan Central, 49⅛ a 49⅜; Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana, 20¼ a ½; do. guaranteed, 41⅝ a ¾; Panama, 111 a 112; Illinois Central, 62⅞ a 63; Galena and Chicago, 60⅛ a ¼; Cleveland and Toledo, 30 a ⅛; Chicago and Rock Island, 52¼ a ⅜; Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, 57⅞ a ½; Milwaukee and Prairie du Chien, 19¼ a ½; Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati, 105; New York Central 7's of 1864, 100 a 101; Erie third mortgage bonds, 89 a 90; Michigan Central 8's, first mortgage, 95¼ a 96; Illinois Central bonds, 7's, 88 a 89.

The government has ceased to pay the principal of its debt in specie, though it continues to pay specie for interest. The business of the Sub-Treasury was as follows to-day:—

Receipts	$505,127 50
—For customs	77,000 00
—On account of loan	18,920 26
Payments, including redeemed 6 p. c. notes	1,191,304 75
Balance	3,092,708 45

The report of the Bank Department is published. In regard to the government scheme for new banks the report says:—

For more than three-quarters of a century the States have exercised exclusive jurisdiction over the banking institutions of their creation, and it is hardly to be expected that they will relinquish it now. With entire willingness to meet all the burdens which the present unnatural rebellion imposes, they will still be likely to demand that an interest which is so directly allied with the business and prosperity of the whole community, shall be left where the constitution has reposed it, amongst the reserved rights of the States. If abuses exist, the remedy is with the several Legislatures. Congress has never so ingratiated itself with the public as to be regarded as a safe depository for the regulation of the entire banking interest of the country. For it is idle to contend that if Congress can prescribe the method and terms upon which State institutions may perform their most important functions, it may not also exercise any other jurisdiction which interest, caprice or corruption may dictate.

And again:—

No State has a deeper interest in the solution of the pending question than New York. Before this report shall meet the eye of the body to which it is addressed, the measure under consideration may have been essentially modified; that under whatever guise presented, the consent of the Legislature seems imperatively demanded before Congressional interference with the institutions of the State can for a moment be tolerated. In what form and under what circumstances that acquiescence shall be manifested must depend upon contingencies not yet developed. To the enlightened judgment and patriotism of the Legislature the subject is respectfully submitted.

We make the following extracts from the report:—

The total amount of outstanding circulation issued to banking associations and individual bankers, and the amount and character of the securities deposited and held in trust for its redemption, on the 20th day of September, 1861, were as follows, viz:—

Outstanding circulation				$23,360,482 00
Securities.				
Bonds and mortgages				$5,350,602 47
New York State stock, 4½ p. c.	$133,400 00			
Do. do. 5 do.	6,183,390 00			
Do. do. 5½ do.	175,500 00			
Do. do. 6 do.	11,499,815 52			
Do. do. 7 do.	632,100 00			
		$19,123,705 92		
United States stock, 5 do.	$3,238,610 00			
Do. do. 6 do.	1,853,300 00			
		5,090,200 00		
Arkansas State stock, 6 do.	$24,000 00			
Illinois State stock, 6 do.	410,250 00			
Michigan State stock, 6 do.	41,000 00			
		475,250 00		
Cash on deposit		178,722 20		
Total		$30,213,780 59		
Aggregate of the securities held in trust for banking associations and individual bankers, Sept. 30, 1860	$30,195,463 12			
Increase during the year 1861	18,315 47			
		$30,213,780 59		
Amount of circulation outstanding, Sept. 20, 1860		23,541,416 00		
Amount of circulation outstanding, Sept. 20, 1861		23,360,482 00		
Decrease for year ending Sept. 20, 1861		$180,934 00		

Increase and decrease in the several kinds of securities during the past year:—

Increase in United States stock	$1,968,300 00	
Increase in cash	62,995 80	
		$1,031,965 80
Decrease in New York State stock	$1,450,716 01	
Decrease in Arkansas State stock	115,000 00	
Decrease in bonds and mortgages	464,601 32	
		1,013,317 33
Decrease		$18,318 47

By telegraph we hear that Judge Miller, of the United States District Court of Milwaukee, has decided in the La Crosse and Milwaukee Railroad suit that the eastern division or Palmer mortgage of $877,500 is a first lien on the eastern division of ninety-five miles from Milwaukee to Portage, and includes the franchise and machinery and equipments of the whole road. That next in order of priority of lien is the land grant mortgage on the western division, one hundred and five miles from Portage to La Crosse; and second to the Palmer mortgage on the franchise, equipments, machinery, &c.; the bonds No. 1 a 1,991 at par and interest; No. 1,992 a 3,950 of the $1,000 bonds, and No. 1 a 100 of the $500 at 40 cents and interest. That after the above two mortgages the second mortgage, eastern division, is a next lien on the ninety-five miles eastern division, and a third lien on the franchises, equipments, rolling stock, &c. He leaves Chamberlain's claims undecided, and gives A. Fleming, Esq., until February 1, 1862, to file a cross bill to attack Chamberlain and others. The Court rejects P. R. Dow's, Esq., agent of the second mortgage, eastern division, claims for services and charges, thus requiring him to pay over the amount collected by him while in possession of the road to the second mortgage bondholders as interest withheld by him from them. There being nothing due on the Palmer mortgage, the effect of this decision is to give the franchise, rolling stock, equipments, &c., to the land grant bondholders, so that they now have as security for their payment 105 miles of railroad, all the franchise, all the rolling stock, equipments, &c., and all the lands donated to aid in building the road.

The Superintendent of the Banking Department has called for the usual quarterly statement of the banks of the State of New York, showing their condition on the morning of December 28, 1861.

The exchanges at the Bank Clearing House this morning were $19,271,424 61, and the balances $1,119,895 05.

The Niagara Fire Insurance Company has made a dividend of eight per cent for the last five months, payable on the 15th inst.; the Humboldt Fire Insurance Company, a dividend of five per cent, payable on demand; the Relief Fire Insurance Company, a semi-annual dividend of six per cent, payable on demand; the Mercantile Bank, a semi-annual dividend of four per cent, payable on the 15th instant; the Bank for Savings, Bleecker Street, the Bowery Savings Bank, the Seamen's Bank for Savings, and the Greenwich Savings, their usual semi-annual interest dividends, payable on the 20th inst.; the Ætna Fire Insurance Company of New York, a dividend of fifty per cent on the earned premiums of the year 1861, for which certificates will be issued on the 10th of February; also a cash dividend of six per cent to the stockholders, payable on the 11th inst.

The Niagara, which left Boston for Liverpool yesterday, had on freight 43,000 sovereigns in gold, and $97,000 for Liverpool and $40,000 for Halifax.

The following were the earnings of the 133 miles of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad proper:—

From January 1, 1860, to January 1, 1861	$1,510,423
From January 1, 1861, to January 1, 1862	1,523,978
Increase for the twelve months of 1861	$13,555

We compile the following statement of the "profits" (September 21, 1861) of the New York city banks, which will be found interesting at this time:—

	Capital.	Profits.
American Exchange Bank	$5,000,000	304,509
Artisans' Bank	600,000	16,453
Atlantic Bank	400,000	29,963
Bank of America	3,000,000	346,553
Bank of Commerce	9,148,450	449,923
Bank of the Commonwealth	750,000	43,439
Bank of New York	3,000,000	165,472
Bank of North America	1,000,000	126,181
Bank of the Republic	2,000,000	262,765
Bank of the State of New York	2,000,000	204,281
Broadway Bank	1,000,000	427,936
Bull's Head Bank	200,000	31,095
Butchers' and Drovers' Bank	800,000	102,035
Chatham Bank	450,000	16,351
Chemical Bank	300,000	730,859
Citizens' Bank	400,000	39,566
City Bank	1,000,000	233,067
Continental Bank	2,000,000	120,681
Corn Exchange Bank	1,000,000	50,705
East River Bank	250,525	25,628
Fulton Bank	600,000	235,921
Greenwich Bank	200,000	51,031
Grocers' Bank	300,000	34,575
Hanover Bank	1,000,000	67,401
Importers' and Traders' Bank	1,500,000	169,963
Irving Bank	500,000	16,060
Leather Manufacturers' Bank	600,000	226,459
Manhattan Company	2,050,000	856,056
Manuf's and Merchants' Bank	500,000	28,244
Marine Bank	750,000	27,163
Market Bank	1,000,000	53,964
Mechanics' Bank	2,000,000	202,633
Mechanics' Banking Association	500,000	29,220
Mechanics' and Traders' Bank	600,000	78,855
Mercantile Bank	1,000,000	114,161
Merchants' Bank	2,116,400	205,283
Merchants' Exchange Bank	1,235,000	75,252
Metropolitan Bank	4,000,000	425,566
Nassau Bank	1,000,000	64,004
New York Dry Dock Company	200,000	6,168
National Bank	1,500,000	106,245
New York County Bank	200,000	17,631
New York Exchange Bank	160,000	16,023
North River Bank	400,000	11,038
Ocean Bank	1,000,000	41,572
Oriental Bank	300,000	23,010
Pacific Bank	422,700	100,624
Park Bank	2,000,000	224,035
People's Bank	412,500	15,945
Phenix Bank	1,800,000	100,513
Saint Nicholas Bank	750,000	50,672
Shoe and Leather Bank	1,500,000	219,275
Seventh Ward Bank	500,000	122,118
Tradesmen's Bank	1,000,000	75,850
Union Bank	1,500,000	167,184
Total of city banks	$69,650,005	7,898,709

The statements of the banks of the three principal cities of the Union for the last week compare with the previous one, and the corresponding time of 1860, as follows:—

	Loans.	Deposits.	Specie.	Circulation.
N. York, Jan. 4	$154,231,653	111,780,221	27,558,854	[illegible]
Boston, Jan. 6	65,612,997	27,073,800	8,898,416	[illegible]
Phila., Jan. 6	31,046,337	21,256,004	6,668,733	2,145,219
Total	$250,890,987	160,279,056	38,606,002	[illegible]
Last week	251,266,450	165,147,474	43,090,625	[illegible]
Last year	215,542,407	120,225,845	33,064,291	[illegible]

Stock Exchange.

THURSDAY, Jan. 9, 1862.

$1000 U S 6's, '65	85	10 shs NY Cen RR b15			81½
1000 Ill Can r b, ex int	76	220	do		81¾
2000 Mich 6's, '78	79	100	do	s10	81¾
1000 Mich S w'k bds	78	50 Erie RR			34⅛
5000 Missouri 6's	41⅝	50	do	b60	34¼
3000 do	41¾	100	do	b10	34¼
11000 do	41⅝	310	do		34⅛
6000 do	41½	100	do		34
1000 N York 6's, '67	102	400	do		34
1000 Brooklyn c w l	95	400 Cleve & Tol RR			30
1000 Erie RR 5th m b	72	150	do	b30	30
1000 Hud Riv RR 1m	106	200	do	b30	30
1000 do	106½	1100	do		30⅛
2000 do	106½	60 Erie RR pref		b30	60¾
5000 Chi, B&Q RR 8 p c b	93	100	do	b30	60½
1000 Mich S 2 m sec d	61	100	do	b30	60
3000 Mich So s f bds	82¾	100	do		60⅜
1000 Ill Cen RR bds	89	300	do		60⅛
1000 Tol W & Wab 1m	70½	50 Harlem RR		b30	13
2000 Chi & NoWest 1m	39¾	200 Harlem RR pref			30½
8000 do	39¾	100 Mich Cen RR			49⅜
8000 do	39¾	50	do		49⅜
2100 L Erie & W 1m bds	75	50	do	s60	49
2000 Clev&Tol s f bds	78	200 Mich S & N Ia RR			20½
6000 CumCoal&Ir 1st bds	70	20 Mich S & N Ia g s			41¾
12 shs Metropol Bk	80	20 Panama RR			112
5 Continental Bank	72	60	do		111
60 Pacific M SS Co s60	95¾	200 Gal & Chi RR		b30	60⅞
223 do	95¾	100	do		60⅛
100 do	96	200 Chi & Rock Isl RR			52⅜
50 do s10	95¾	100	do	s30	52¼
50 Nicaragua Tr Co	2½	200	do		52⅛
100 N Y Cen RR s10	81¾	50 Chi, B & Q RR		b10	58
50 do	81⅝	20	do		58
100 do b10	81¾	45 Mil & Pr du C RR			19¾
100 do b10	81¾	5 Mil & Pr du C 2d pf			62
50 do b30	81¾	100 Pac & State Line RR			120

SECOND BOARD.

$5000 U S 6's, '67	85	100 shs Erie RR s30	34
1000 Missouri 6's	41⅝	50 Erie RR pref	60⅛
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2000 Ill Canal reg bds	77	11 do	82½
2000 Mich 6's, '78	79	60 Harlem RR	13
1000 Ill war loan	77	50 Harlem RR pref	30⅛
7000 California 7's	77	550 Mich Cen RR	49⅜
4000 Louisiana 6's	60	60 Mich S & N Ia g'd s'k	41¾
4000 Mil & P du C 1m	83	100 Gal & Chi RR	60⅛
50 shs Pac Mail SS Co	95¾	150 Mil & P du Chien RR	19½
50 do s10	95¾	20 do	19½
150 N Y Cen RR	81¾	15 Mil & P du Chien 2 p f	62
400 Erie RR	34		

CITY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

THURSDAY, Jan. 9—6 P. M.

ASHES.—The market was steady, with small sales of both sorts at $6 25.

BREADSTUFFS.—Flour—The market exhibited more tone and closed with firmness for most grades, while the sales embraced about 14,000 bbls., closing within the following range of prices:—

Superfine State	$5 45	a	5 55
Extra to fancy State	5 72½	a	5 90
Superfine Western	5 45	a	5 55
Common to choice extra Western	5 75	a	6 75
Canadian	5 75	a	6 75
Southern mixed to good superfine	5 90	a	6 30
Extra do	6 35	a	7 00
Good to choice family do	7 00	a	8 00
Rye flour	3 00	a	4 30
Corn meal, Jersey and Brandywine	3 00	a	3 30

—Canadian flour was in moderate demand and prices steady. The sales embraced about 600 a 800 bbls., closing within the above quotations. Southern flour was some less buoyant, while sales embraced about 1,400 bbls., within the range of the above prices. Rye flour was steady at our figures, with sales of 150 bbls. Corn meal was quiet and steady at quotations. Wheat was in fair request, and prices in the main sustained, while sales were moderate. The transactions embraced about 20,000 bushels, at $1 43 for amber Western, red State at p. t., $1 40 a $1 42 for red Western, $1 33 a $1 35 for amber Iowa, $1 32 for Racine spring, $1 30 a $1 32 for Milwaukee, and at $1 29 for Chicago spring, afloat. Corn was firmer, with rather more doing. The sales footed up about 70,000 bushels, at 65c. a 66c. for Western, in store, 64c. for Jersey new yellow, and 66c. a 66½c. for shipping lots of mixed delivered, and a small lot from Northampton, Va., at 66c., and old Northern round yellow at 69c. Rye was firmer, with sales of 7,000 bushels prime State at 85c. Barley was steady, but quiet. Oats were plenty and in good demand. Sales of Canadian were made at 43c. a 44c., and State at 44c.

COFFEE.—The sales embraced 150 bags St. Domingo at 21c., and about 4,000 bags Rio at 18c. a 20c., and 100 pockets Java at 25c.

COTTON.—The market was quiet and quotations in some degree nominal. Sales were confined to about 100 bales at 36c. for middling uplands.

FREIGHTS.—Rates were firm, with a fair amount offering. To Liverpool corn was taken, in bulk and bags, at 9d. a 9½d., and wheat do. at 9½d. a 10d.; 3,000 bbls. flour were engaged at 2s. 9d. By steamer, 650 boxes bacon at 50s., 000 packages butter at 90s., and 1,200 boxes cheese at 50s. To London 100 packages lard at 22s. 6d., 1,000 bbls. flour at 3s. 3d. a 3s. 4d., and 500 boxes bacon at 35s. To Havre 1,000 bbls. flour at 20s.

HAY.—The market was firmer and higher, the heaviest demand being on government account. Sales were making for shipment at 80c. a 90c., and prime for city use at 95c. a $1.

MOLASSES.—Sales of 400 hhds. of first Cuba for distilling were made at 21c.

NAVAL STORES were quiet and sales of spirits light at $1 60 a $1 62. Common and higher grades of rosin were firmly held at full prices.

PROVISIONS.—Pork was more active, while prices were without change of moment; the sales embraced about 12,000 bbls. at $11 75 a $12 25 for old and new mess, $9 a $9 50 for new prime, and $9 25 a $9 75 for old prime, $12 50 a $14 for Western and city prime mess. Beef was firm, and sales embraced 425 bbls. at $11 50 a $12 for plain mess, and $13 50 a $14 for extra mess. Beef hams were unchanged. Tierce beef was steady and in moderate demand, with sales of 150 tierces India mess at $24. Cut meats were quiet at 4c. a 4½c. for dry salted shoulders, and at 5c. a 6c. for hams. Bacon was in good demand and quite firm; sales of 1,300 boxes at 6½c. a 7c. for long ribbed city. Lard was more active and firm, with sales reported of about 2,300 bbls. at 8c. a 8½c. for Western and 8¾c. for city. Dressed hogs were steady at 4½c. a 4¾c. Butter, under the currency question, was firmer, with sales of good to prime State, for export, at 16c. a 20c. Cheese was less active, with sales of State, chiefly within the range of 6½c. a 7½c.

SPICES continued to rule firm. Sales of 606 bags pimento were made at 13½c., cash, duty paid, and 600 do. at 14c., do., do.; 500 bags pepper at 19½c. and 200 do. at 20c., and 150 cases of mace at p. t.

SUGARS were steady, with sales of 300 a 400 hhds. Cuba at unchanged prices, and 1,300 boxes at p. t., and 1,350 bags Manila at 7¼c.

TALLOW.—The market was enhanced in prices by the advance in the rates of sterling exchange. Stocks were light and prices quite firm. Sales of 170,000 lbs. have been made during the week of prime city at $9 37½ a $9 56¼; 10,000 do. Western, in barrels, at 9½c., and 60,000 do. Eastern at p. t. Sales of Western were reported at 6c. a 7c., the latter for prime.

TEA continued firm, with an improved tendency in prices. Greens ranged from 75c. to $1 10, according to quality. Good blacks were quite firm at 63c. a 80c. for Oolongs and 45c. a 65c. for Souchong.

WHISKEY.—The market made another jump, with sales of 1,000 bbls. at 25c. a 26c., closing at the latter figure.

SHIPPING NEWS.

ALMANAC FOR NEW YORK—THIS DAY.

SUN RISES	7 24	MOON SETS	morn 2 4[illegible]
SUN SETS	4 51	HIGH WATER	morn 3 3[illegible]

Port of New York, January 9, 1862.

CLEARED.

Steamship Columbia, Adams, Havana via Key West—Spofford & Tileston.

Ship John Currie, Hallowell, Liverpool—Snow & Burgess.

[illegible]

ARRIVED.

Steamship Kangaroo (Br), McQuinn, Liverpool, Dec 25, via Queenstown 26th, 4 PM, with mdse and passengers, to John G Dale.

Steamship Australasian (Br), Cook, Liverpool, Dec 18, via Halifax and St John, NB, Jan 7, to E Cunard. 9th inst, 10 AM, passed Bremen ship Athena, for New York.

[illegible]

Ship Niagara, Lawrence, London, 45 days, in ballast, to C C Duncan & Co. Had heavy weather.

[illegible]

BELOW.

Schr Alice T, of St John, NB, from Havana.—By pilot boat James M Waterbury.

[illegible]

Whalemen.

[illegible]

Spoken, &c.

[illegible]

Foreign Ports.

[illegible]

American Ports.

[illegible]

Miscellaneous.

[illegible]

PROPOSALS.

[illegible]

FINE ARTS.

[illegible]

RAILROADS.

[illegible]

COAL.

[illegible]

FURNITURE.

[illegible]

LEGAL NOTICES.

[illegible]

SALES OF REAL ESTATE.

A BEAUTIFUL FOUR STORY BROWN STONE FRONT House, basement and subcellar, with all the modern improvements, on Brooklyn Heights, 33 Columbia street, opposite Colonnade row, with a fine view of New York bay, will be sold very cheap on easy terms. For further particulars apply to or address T. Simpson, 34 avenue D.

A RARE CHANCE FOR MANUFACTURERS. WATER POWER FOR SALE OR RENT. [illegible] For further particulars apply to JOHN ORR & CO., Cornwall, Orange county, N. Y.

A COTTAGE, NEAR THE CITY—AT A SACRIFICE, with an acre of choice fruits, at Ebona, Morrisania [illegible]

CHEAP FARMS OF FIFTY AND ONE HUNDRED acres, most favorably situated in Pennsylvania [illegible] SOUTHWICK & WOOD, 82 Nassau street.

FARM FOR SALE AT A GREAT BARGAIN—TWENTY acres first rate garden Land, two miles from Grand street ferry. Title perfect. [illegible] Address box 239 Herald office.

FOR SALE—IN CONSEQUENCE OF ILL HEALTH, or would be exchanged for a farm of 100 to 150 acres, [illegible]

FOR SALE—A MODERN STYLED HOUSE (NEARLY new) and lot, in a flourishing county seat village, [illegible] Inquire at 91 Barclay street.

FOR SALE—IN GREENPOINT, TWO LOTS AND A small Cottage, convenient to the ferry. Will be sold cheap. [illegible] Address D. G. Eaton, 115 Joralemon street, Brooklyn.

FOR SALE—AT A GREAT SACRIFICE, FOR CASH the new stone front House, [illegible] Call on N. C. BISHOP, 114 Broadway, store floor, immediately.

FOR SALE—AN ELEGANT FOUR STORY BROWN stone House, in Fifth avenue. [illegible] BULKLEY & FINK, 43 Wall street, Jauncey court.

FOR SALE—THIRTY-EIGHT MILES ON LONG Island, a Farm of eighty-five acres, [illegible] R. BLAKE, 14 Chambers st.

FOR SALE—OR TO EXCHANGE FOR ASSORTED merchandise, a desirable village Store Property, [illegible] ISAAC A. BIGGS, 73 Nassau street.

FOR SALE—BROWN STONE FRONT HOUSE, ALL modern improvements, situated in best part of Brooklyn (on Heights, overlooking harbor of New York); [illegible] Address box 74, Brooklyn Post office.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—SOME OF THE choicest Timber and Farm Land in the States; [illegible] F. D. RICHARDSON, 52 and 54 Nassau street.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—A THREE STORY brown House and lot in West Thirty-fourth street, [illegible] Apply to ALBERT H. NICOLAY, 52 William street.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—FOR A SMALL FARM IN New York, a Farm of 64 acres in Spotswood, N. J.; good house and barn on it. Three hours from New York, Camden and Amboy route. Address R. S. S., box 3,163 Post office.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE, FOR RELIABLE SECURITIES, two three story high stoop brick Houses, in Brooklyn, [illegible] CLARK & GODDARD, No. 46 Cedar street, American Exchange Bank Building.

FOR SALE OR TRADE FOR A FARM OR TENEMENT Property, the following Lots, [illegible] for three days, at 29 John street, N. Y., in the basement.

FOR SALE OR TO LET—A FULL SIZED FIRST CLASS House and Lot on Murray Hill, two lots west of Fifth avenue. [illegible] For particulars apply to HENRY BAYLIS, No. 113 Chambers street.

FOR SALE OR TO LET—THE THREE STORY 21 feet front high stoop brown stone house [illegible] Rent $50 per month. Apply to H. D. RICE, 15 City Hall [illegible]

HOTEL FOR SALE VERY CHEAP—OPPOSITE DEPOT, in a flourishing village, [illegible] SOUTHWICK & WOOD, 82 Nassau street.

PLOT IN BROADWAY—FOR SALE, IN BROADWAY, a beautiful Plot of Ground, [illegible] Apply to E. H. LUDLOW & CO., No. 3 Pine street.

TO EXCHANGE—FOR A MEDIUM DWELLING, OR Cottage and grounds, anywhere between Lexington and Seventh avenues, [illegible] Address box 1,978 Post office.

WANTED—A GOOD FARM OF FROM FIFTY TO ONE hundred acres of choice Land, [illegible] BULKLEY & FINK, 43 Wall street, Jauncey court.

REWARDS.

$3 REWARD.—LOST, ON THE EVENING OF THE 9th, a small Skye Terrier Slut, [illegible] will receive the above reward and the thanks of the owner.

$5 REWARD.—LOST, ON THE EVENING OF THE 8th inst., between Thirty-fifth and Fortieth streets, in Sixth avenue, a Sable Tippet. [illegible] 36 Warren street.

$5 REWARD.—LOST, ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, 8th inst., [illegible] by leaving it at 24 Second avenue.

$5 REWARD.—LOST, A MINK MUFF, WITH THREE black stripes, [illegible] Hammond street shall receive the above reward.

$10 REWARD OFFERED FOR THE RECOVERY OF a Basket, [illegible] U. GRAYSON, 403 Canal street.

$20 REWARD.—LOST, ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, [illegible]

$25 REWARD.—LOST, ON OR ABOUT THE SECOND of this month, a one hundred dollar bank bill. [illegible] Union square.

$100 REWARD.—LOST, DECEMBER 23, ON BROADWAY, a Wallet, [illegible] J. M. KIMBALL.

BILLIARDS.

A LARGE STOCK OF NEW AND SECOND HAND BILLIARD Tables, with Phelan's Combination Cushions, for sale at prices to suit the times. PHELAN & COLLENDER, 63 to 69 Crosby st., N. Y.

BILLIARDS—WANTED, A SECOND HAND BILLIARD Table, in good order. [illegible]

CARAMBOLATION—WHAT IS THE USE OF [illegible] H. W. SMITH, Proprietor.

PERSONS IN WANT OF NEW AND SECOND HAND Billiard Tables [illegible]

SPORTING.

DOG FOR SALE—A THOROUGHBRED WHITE Italian Greyhound for sale, or will be exchanged for goods. [illegible] T. H. Walker, 56 First avenue.

FRANCIS BUTLER, NO. 3 PECK SLIP, HAS ALL THE choice Breeds for stock and sale. [illegible]

MATRIMONIAL.

A GENTLEMAN OF UNDOUBTED RESPECTABILITY, matrimonially inclined, [illegible]

A YOUNG MAN, A STRANGER IN NEW YORK, wishes to form the acquaintance of a young lady with a view to matrimony. [illegible] Address G. H. W., box 113 Herald office.

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

Volume XXVII..............................No. 9

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—Hamlet.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—Dot—Mr. Nessmon's Wife.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, No. 844 Broadway.—Love for Love.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—Our American Cousin.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—Money—Charlotte Temple—...

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—Spicer's National Circus.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—Day and Evening.—Opera—Hippopotamus, Whale, and Other Curiosities.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—Un Ballo in Maschera.

HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS, Stuyvesant Institute, No. 659 Broadway.—Ethiopian Songs, Dances, &c.

MELODEON CONCERT HALL, No. 539 Broadway.—Songs, Dances, Burlesques, &c.—Diana.

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 585 Broadway.—Songs, Dances, Burlesques, &c.—M... Dachaderake.

GAIETIES CONCERT ROOM, 616 Broadway.—Drawing Room Entertainments, Ballets, Pantomimes, Farces, &c.

AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 444 Broadway.—Songs, Ballets, Pantomimes, &c.—Sean ...

CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Bowery.—Burlesques, Songs, Dances, &c.—New Year's Call.

PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway.—Open daily from 10 A. M. till 9 P. M.

NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 616 Broadway.—Burlesques, Songs, Dances, &c.

New York, Friday, January 10, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

The most important feature of the news is that which relates to the concentration of troops at two important points, northeast and northwest of rebeldom, for the purpose of marching upon the supporters of that doctrine *en masse*. One of these advances is to take place from the department of the Missouri, as may be gathered from the important intelligence received from St. Louis. A special despatch had been received at that city from Cairo to the effect that 25,000 troops were concentrating at the latter point, and when all had arrived, a column of from sixty to seventy thousand strong would move to Paducah, under Gen. Grant. The destination of the force is said to be Nashville, where they will unite with Gen. Buell's column. The united forces will then proceed in a southerly direction towards New Orleans. This movement was expected to take place within six days.

Another movement has already begun in a direction nearly opposite to that just mentioned. Half of Gen. Burnside's expedition sailed only yesterday morning, and the other half was ready to depart by three o'clock in the afternoon. This force will rendezvous in Hampton Roads, after which it will sail for some at present unknown Southern port. Several thousand men will move upon the rebels in this direction.

The navigation of the Potomac river has been somewhat impeded by floating ice, but communication has been kept open by the steamer King Philip. The Stepping Stones passed the rebel batteries without molestation on her way from the lower to the upper flotilla. It was thought probable that the rebels withheld their fire for the purpose of attacking the Pensacola when she went to sea.

From Fortress Monroe we learn that the rebel batteries at Craney Island had been practicing ... whole of Wednesday. Big Bethel was reported to be again in the possession of the rebel forces. The steamers Connecticut and Phenix had sailed for Port Royal and the Ranoogas for Hatteras. The remainder of the news was unimportant.

The newspapers in the whole State of Missouri have been, by order of the Provost Marshal General, placed under military inspection, and newspaper publishers not sending a copy of each issue to the Provost Marshal's headquarters, at St. Louis, will render their journals liable to suppression. The city papers of St. Louis do not come under the restrictive order.

The Chamber of Commerce of St. Louis had become divided in consequence of trouble existing between the Union and secession members. The former retired yesterday and formed a new corporation, as a Union Chamber of Commerce, entirely independent of the old body.

Our Baltimore correspondence gives us an important piece of information relative to prisoners taken from on board privateers. By that it would appear that the Cabinet are opposed to any punishment being inflicted upon the rebel privateersmen, or their receiving any different treatment from that of other prisoners of war.

It further appears that all the demonstrations made by the rebels opposite Hancock are merely to prevent the Union troops rebuilding the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between Harper's Ferry and Hancock.

It has been reported by a gentleman from Galveston, Texas, that cotton has been transported through the extreme Southern States to Brownsville, in that State, and from thence shipped to Matamoras, in Mexico. It is further stated that the said Mexican port has been made an English military and naval station. If so, Great Britain could, without apparently infringing on the blockade, obtain all the cotton she might want from the South. We give the statement for what it is worth, reminding our readers that the means of transit from other parts of the South to Brownsville are anything but efficient, convenient or expeditious.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday, the House resolution in regard to bonded sugar and coffee was passed, by a vote of twenty-three to fifteen. Mr. Hale presented a petition from citizens of Pennsylvania, alleging that "great frauds have been perpetrated on the Treasury by the appointment of Mr. Cummings by Mr. Cameron, and the appointment of Mr. Morgan by Mr. Welles," and asking for such legislation as will prevent similar frauds in future. Whereupon Mr. Hale introduced a bill to punish frauds on the Treasury by a fine to the amount of money fraudulently obtained, and imprisonment, at hard labor, for not more than ten years; also, that any officer of the government convicted of fraud be discharged and punished, and ever after held ineligible for any office. The subject was referred to the appropriate committee. Bills providing for a Signal Department of the army; to regulate the pay of army officers; organizing the staffs of the divisions of the army; regulating the appointment of chaplains and to allow Jewish chaplains, and to increase the clerical force of the Adjutant General's office, were presented by the Committee on Military Affairs. The communication from the Secretary of State in regard to the Trent affair was then taken up, and Mr. Sumner, of Massachusetts, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, delivered an elaborate exposition of the policy of the government as regards the settlement of the recent difficulty with Great Britain. The galleries of the Senate were densely crowded with spectators, including the diplomatic corps, excepting Lord Lyons, to hear the speech of Mr. Sumner. At the conclusion of Mr. Sumner's remarks the Iron Clad War Steamer bill was taken up, and the proposed amendment of the Naval Committee, that the ships be built under the direction of the President, instead of the Secretary of the Navy—which amendment, if adopted, would be an unqualified censure of the Secretary—gave rise to a long and interesting discussion, in the course of which the Secretary was rather roughly handled. Finally the debate was brought to a termination by Mr. Wilson's offering a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the Secretary of the Navy to report to the Senate the facts in regard to the employment of George D. Morgan to purchase vessels, and the amount of compensation paid him, and the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, bills to establish an arsenal at Springfield, Illinois; to punish frauds on the government, and providing for the payment of interest, in certain cases, on claims against the government, were presented and referred. The bill abolishing the franking privilege was then taken up. A bill of this character, said Mr. Colfax, has on several occasions passed the Senate, but never before received favorable action by the House Post Office Committee. It was now reported unanimously, with one exception, by the committee. After considerable debate, a motion was made to lay the subject on the table, and on this test vote the opponents of the bill were defeated by a vote of fifty-one against seventy-eight. Without further action the House adjourned.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

In the State Legislature at Albany yesterday considerable business was transacted. In the Senate, among the petitions presented was one praying that the State assume the collection of its portion of the national tax, and another, that the Supervisors of Kings county be directed to provide for the families of Volunteers. Among the bills of which notice was given was one to incorporate the New York City Cab Company, one to regulate the concert saloons in this city, and two to amend the acts in relation to fire and life insurance companies. Concurrent resolutions were introduced requesting the President of the United States to provide for an exchange of prisoners of war. The presentment of the Grand Jury of this city relative to the concert saloons was laid before the Senate by the presiding officer. A Health District bill for New York and Kings counties, the same as that passed by the Assembly at the last session, was introduced. In the Assembly notices were given of bills to provide for the support of volunteers' families by a State tax; to amend the charter of Brooklyn; to amend the Registry law; to amend the law in respect to elections in this city; in relation to volunteers who have distinguished themselves in the war; to provide for the State paying her volunteers; to amend the Revised Statutes; to regulate fire insurance companies; to alter the map of New York city; to amend the charter of Brooklyn, and numerous others of less interest. A bill was introduced to provide relief for the suffering people of Ireland; also one to extend various streets in this city. A resolution was offered in regard to the waste of time by our Senators and representatives in Congress in useless discussion, instead of attending to the business of the country.

The steamship Kangaroo, Capt. McGuigan, from Liverpool at three o'clock in the morning December 25, and Queenstown December 26, arrived here at two o'clock yesterday afternoon. Her news has already been forestalled by other arrivals. The Kangaroo has been very much detained since passing Cape Race by heavy head winds; which fact somewhat accounts for her late arrival at this port.

An advertisement has appeared in the Montreal journals calling for tenders for bills, to be drawn at thirty days' sight, on the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury, to the extent of £50,000 sterling, the proceeds of the bills to be deposited with the Bank of Montreal to the credit of the Senior Commissariat Officer.

The weekly statement of the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction was presented yesterday, and shows that the number of persons admitted to the institutions during the week ending January 4 was 1,350, making a total of 7,782 remaining there on that date, a decrease of 21 on the preceding week, and a decrease of 734 up to the same date last year. This is accounted for in consequence of the large number of men who have enlisted and gone off to the war, and who are now filling honorable positions and serving their country on the banks of the Potomac and elsewhere. Intemperance among females is very much on the increase, the majority of those sent on the Island during the last few months having been females who were picked up in the streets in a state of intoxication.

The General Committee of Tammany Hall, elected for the ensuing year, organized last evening, after a prolonged contest, in which thirteen wards were disputed, and the Aldermanic faction defeated their rivals of the opposition, placing the control of the Tammany Hall organization in the hands of the "Ring" for the nominations and elections of Comptroller, Corporation Counsel, &c., next fall.

In our columns to-day will be found an interesting letter from Colonel A. Hamilton, on the subject of our negotiations with Great Britain, in which is predicted a satisfactory termination of our difficulties.

The suit of Dion Bourcicault against Messrs. Fox & Lingard, managers of the New Bowery theatre, to recover $2,500 damages for performing the play of the "Octoroon," which was the alleged copyright property of the plaintiff, was commenced yesterday before Judge Shipman, in the United States Circuit Court.

The cotton market was quiet yesterday, with so little doing as in some degree to render quotations nominal. We continue to quote middling uplands at 36c., while the sales were limited to some 100 a 150 bales, in separate lots. The stock is now so low as to make the range of assortments quite limited. The flour market opened dull, but it gathered strength towards the close of 'Change, while sales were moderate and prices without change of moment. Wheat was steady, while sales were moderate. Corn was more active and rather firmer for good sound shipping lots of Western mixed, with sales at 65c. a 66½c. delivered. Pork was more active while prices were unchanged. Sugars were in steady request, with sales of 300 a 400 hhds., 1,300 boxes and 6,500 bags Manila. Coffee was steady, with sales of 3,600 bags Manila and 1,200 boxes Havana at rates given elsewhere. Whiskey advanced to 25c. a 26c. Spices were firm with a tendency towards higher prices. Freights were steady with a fair amount offering.

Ex-President Fillmore on the Press, the Crisis and the War with England.—In a speech delivered at Buffalo, a few days since, ex-President Fillmore took occasion to charge the press with involving the country in a war with England. It is an old trick of played out politicians to attack the press, just as broken down sots abuse their old best friends. It is acts which create wars, and the press is not at all to blame in the case. The press did not make Captain Wilkes board the Trent and seize Mason and Slidell. Ex-President Fillmore may consult his mirror if he wishes to see one of the politicians who have brought about the crisis which rendered such an act as that of Captain Wilkes necessary. It was Fillmore who first introduced the slavery question into New York State politics, and thus indirectly aided latent treason. Ex-President Fillmore might as well leave the press alone. It has killed him politically, and dead men should tell no tales, unless they be true ones.

The Rights of Congress and the Duty of the Executive.

There is a Jacobin faction in Congress which, notwithstanding the lesson of Bull run, still persists in directing the movements of our army. This faction, in every possible way, avails itself of every opportunity to declare its lack of faith in the war policy of the administration and in the competency and loyalty of our generals who are known to be opposed to the foolish and diabolical abolition scheme of making this war for the Union a war for the extirpation of Southern slavery.

For example, Mr. Roscoe L. Conkling, of New York, availed himself the other day of his resolution of inquiry concerning the Ball's Bluff disaster to express his doubts of the loyalty of General Stone, and his suspicions of bad management on the part of General McClellan, as the responsible General-in-Chief of the army. To the first resolution of the House upon this affair at Ball's Bluff, General McClellan, through the Secretary of War and the President, had sent in an unsatisfactory and evasive answer, as charged by Mr. Conkling, and, falling back upon the constitutional rights, prerogatives and dignity of the House, he demanded another and more appropriate answer to the inquiry involved in said resolution. Of course, upon an appeal to the rights and dignity of the House, Mr. Conkling carried his point; but it does not follow that the President, or any executive or military subordinate, is thereby bound to impart information which, in being divulged at this time, would be calculated to prove prejudicial to the public service. Upon military as upon diplomatic affairs, or as in regard to any other proceedings of the executive branch of the government, either house of Congress has the undoubted right to call upon the President for information; but the uniform rule in resolutions of this sort is, that he shall only give the information desired to the extent to which he may deem it "not incompatible with the public interests."

Now, the answer communicated to the first resolution of the House on this Ball's Bluff affair was substantially to the effect that it would be "incompatible with the public interest" at this time to give the information desired. And Mr. Conkling's affectation of vigilance in the matter of the rights and dignity of the House turns upon a paltry quibble. The simple truth is, that, as General McClellan does not endorse the abolition war programme of the Jacobin faction of Congress, they have commenced the game of snubbing him. No doubt there is a justifiable curiosity on the part of every member of Congress to know precisely the objects of that movement upon Ball's Bluff, and the causes of that extraordinary disaster; and a similar desire exists to know exactly how it was that General Fremont failed to come up to the relief of General Lyon at Springfield, and to the rescue of Colonel Mulligan at Lexington; and what were the exact causes which prevented General Patterson from cutting off the junction of the rebel Johnston's column with that of Beauregard at Manassas; and why it is that the rebel blockade of the Potomac has been permitted to continue undisturbed so long. But, as a full and complete answer to Congress upon any one of these subjects at this time would probably disclose some important facts which it is best for the present to withhold from the enemy, the reader will appreciate the good sense of General McClellan in declining to enter upon any specific disclosures in regard to this affair at Ball's Bluff beyond the facts already known. It is very easy to understand why any military leader in front of the enemy should be jealously vigilant against communicating any facts or plans or information of any sort from his army calculated to be useful to his enemy.

General McClellan has the confidence of the President and the country. He will be sustained by the President and the country against any unreasonable demands for information on the part of the Jacobin faction of Congress. He has our army, from the Potomac to the Mississippi, admirably equipped and arranged in connection with our land and naval forces along the Southern seaboard, for a grand and overwhelming system of combined operations. We shall not be kept much longer in suspense. We shall soon have the most satisfactory justification of the present apparent inactivity of our army in a succession of crowning victories. While we are gaining strength meantime, by delay, the rebels are daily becoming weaker and weaker, and nearer the turning point of a general collapse. A single decisive repulse of any magnitude will be the signal for this general collapse of the cause of Jeff. Davis and his exhausted Southern confederacy.

The conservative loyal people of the Union have no fears that McClellan and our army and navy will disappoint the just expectations of the country; and the public confidence in "Honest Abe Lincoln" is unabated. But there are serious apprehensions afloat in regard to the Congress which is now in session at Washington. The treasury is in danger of bankruptcy in the absence of some wholesome legislative measures for its relief; our currency is threatened with another flood of irresponsible shinplasters, in the absence of a solid cash basis for the paper issues of the government; our business men of all pursuits, prostrated by the unforeseen calamities of this rebellion, call for the relieving intervention of a general bankrupt law; and yet the House of Representatives continues to agitate the slavery question and abolition in every shape and form, and continues to pry into the secrets of the army and into the political status of our army officers in regard to slavery, as if there were nothing else to be done.

We earnestly call upon the House of Representatives to attend to its own especial duties in regard to the indispensable financial measures demanded by the extraordinary drains of this war, amounting to six hundred millions a year, and to drop the question of slavery for a while, and leave the President and our generals and naval officers to manage the movements of our land and naval forces. Let the two houses reform and retrench our expenditures as much as they can consistent with sound policy; but let them, of all things, consent to suspend the agitation of slavery until we are provided with the ways and means to secure the government and the country from the general ruin of a sweeping financial revulsion.

It is useless for the abolition Jacobins of Congress to attempt to graduate our army officers and army movements to the war programme of an exterminating crusade against Southern slavery. Nearly all our generals and the bulk of our army repudiate this programme. Upon "Honest Abe Lincoln's" platform our army is united and harmonious. Let Congress leave it so yet a little longer, and attend to the duty of providing the sinews of war, and we shall soon be relieved of all doubts for the future in the general collapse of this sinking and staggering rebellion.

Lincoln's Administration in the Legislature.

There can be no better time than the present for the Legislature of this State to put itself upon record in favor of the conservative administration of President Lincoln. By a curious conglomeration of petty intrigues, the Legislature has elected as its Speaker a man whose loyal antecedents are at least questionable. All over the country the abolitionists are making a desperate fight to supersede the constitutional policy of the administration and obtain control of the government. It is just the time, therefore, for the destructives and the conservatives of New York State to show their relative power, and to settle, at once and definitely, the question whether the greatest State in the Union is for or against the constitution and a constitutional war.

To make public this decision without doubt or delay, a resolution should be introduced into the Legislature endorsing the war policy of the President, and approving of his disavowal of the abolition proclamations of Fremont and Phelps. We have no intention of arguing that the President is right and ought to be sustained; for we believe that the loyal people of this State are convinced of that fact already. Nor are we about to defend the President in his action in regard to Fremont; for events in the State of Missouri especially have already decided that. But it is most fit that the Legislature should express to the President the general conservative approval of his course, and thus strengthen him against the ardent attacks of the Jacobin clique. This would be the first result of the passage of such a resolution, and in a crisis like this, when every possible effort is being made to turn the administration from the path of duty and safety, no one can properly estimate the beneficial effect of such an approval and of such encouragement. The people approve the President's acts, and there is no good reason why the Legislature should not give official expression to this approbation.

But, besides this, the indirect effect of such a resolution would be to range the conservatives and the destructives upon opposite sides, and enable the people of the State and of the country to distinguish who are and who are not really loyal to the Union and the constitution. All conservative men are now trying to foster the Union spirit in the South by every proper means. It is upon this Union spirit they rely for the re-establishment of the former cordial relations between the two sections; for our armies may conquer the South, but only a revival of Southern Union feeling can bring us back our country as it was. Now, it is well for us to distinctly understand who are with us in this matter, and who are in favor of conquering the South only to destroy it and to abolish slavery. This information can only be obtained by placing such a resolution before the Legislature; and we trust that, for the sake of the administration, for the sake of the Southern Union men, for the sake of all constitutional conservatives, and for the sake of our country, such a resolution will be offered, unanimously supported and adopted. If such a resolution shall be opposed by any members, we shall then know who are friends and who are enemies of the Union, and can deal with them accordingly.

The Coast Survey.—A decision of the House Committee of Ways and Means, striking from the Treasury estimates the reduced appropriation to cover the expenses of the coast survey during the next fiscal year, has excited some little dissatisfaction among our merchants. We are surprised that the motives which actuated the committee are not better appreciated. If we are to carry the war to a successful termination it can only be by cutting down every item of expenditure that can be dispensed with for the present, and devoting all our resources to the speedy crushing out of the rebellion. With nearly the whole Southern coast in the hands of the enemy, we can afford to suspend for a season operations that can be resumed later with more advantage. Besides, we have just now more urgent use for the vessels and officers engaged in them. We have not too many of either for the purposes of the blockade or of the expeditions which are being fitted out against the Southern coast. The true policy of Congress at the present time is, we repeat, to cut down or omit altogether from the present estimates every appropriation which is susceptible of curtailment or postponement. Even the sum allocated to the defrayment of the expenses attending the representation of our industrial interests at the great London Exhibition might with propriety be withheld. A beginning has to be made somewhere, and by economizing expenditures which, though legitimate, are not indispensable, we shall be the more readily enabled to put a stop to the corruption and wasteful extravagance which characterize other branches of the public service.

Alarm in India.—By our latest European advices we observe that the British government has a prospect of fresh trouble with the Sikhs, and that the batteries of artillery at Bombay, on the point of embarking for England, were stopped by pressing despatches from Bengal. When we remember the bloody conflicts between the Sikhs and the English under Lord Gough, and what formidable foes the former proved themselves to be, this intelligence is significant. It is true that we are without particulars of the circumstances which have aroused the apprehensions of the British authorities in India; but, from the state of feeling prevailing among the Sikhs for a considerable time past, there is little doubt that they are ripe for open revolt, in which event it will require all the energy and resources of the government to control them. No more dangerous insurrection could occur; for the turbulence and fury of this section of the native population of India are only second to their military skill in battle. We therefore sincerely trust, for the sake of humanity, that no such outbreak as is threatened will occur; but we cannot at the same time close our eyes to the possibility of Great Britain being soon again involved in an Indian war. Now, or yesterday, she was anticipating one, and a great one, in the West; but suddenly all eyes may be turned to the East, where we may see her, with her Oriental dominions in peril, battling desperately with a dangerous enemy. How would it be with England and her Indian possessions if such an outbreak took place during a war with this country, when her forces were drawn away and unavailable to quell it? There would simply be an awful massacre of the English in India, and the three presidencies would be lost to her forever. Let her, therefore, look well to the East while she frowns upon the West.

Satan Advertising His Sinners.

The truths that there are many ways of accomplishing the same object, and that the longest way is sometimes the nearest, are as old and as firmly established as the hills, and are especially applicable to newspaper puffery. There are puffs direct and puffs indirect; puffs by insinuation and puffs by inference; puffs by eulogy and puffs by opposition. All of these kinds of puffs are used in advertising, and Satan, who understands puffery very well, employs each of them as it may suit his purpose.

In attempting to seduce one person, for instance, Satan advertises himself directly by exhibiting the wonders of the world and the glory of them. When he issued his first advertisement, in the garden of Eden, he made use of the puff insinuatory, and so sold his apples and poor Eve together. The puff direct, however, Satan seldom uses nowadays. It is too common and too transparent, and is the sole resource of indigent country editors and over zealous supporters of second rate political candidates. Like a true master of the art, Satan delights in the most difficult and artistic puff—the puff of opposition. "Such a thing is charmingly wicked," he says; "people really ought not to do it;" and, of course, every one is tempted to try the charming wickedness for himself. "This is a very bad place," Satan says; "you ought not to go in there, though it is very attractive and very fancy;" and forthwith every one's curiosity is excited, and in he goes to see what this attractive bad place is. This is an old and favorite dodge of Satan's, and we are not surprised to find him playing it, in regard to the concert saloons, through his pet organ, the *World*—a journal which wears a hypocritical mask of piety, but inwardly and really is a compound of Satan, sulphureous India rubber, Cummings, sin, depravity and pickings from the public crib.

The *World* has already been convicted of being Satan's organ upon circumstantial evidence; for every one knows that, with its little circulation and slim advertising, it never could have existed thus long without diabolical support. Besides, it showed the cloven foot very plainly in that Cummings affair; for Cummings deposed that he was a publisher of the *World*, and carried out the *World's* ideas by dipping his sticky fingers into the public treasury and expending large sums for porter and ale, and not a cent on Bibles and Testaments. That the *World* should, therefore, take care of such bibulous places as the concert saloons are said to be is not to be wondered at; for thus Satan is simply advertising his own sinners. Now, the Herald knows nothing directly of the concert saloons; for we deal with them as with any other places of amusement licensed by the Mayor and sanctioned by law. From the accounts of the *World* people, who, since the era of Cummings' ale and porter, seem to spend the best part of their time in such institutions, we infer, however, that drinking and pretty waiter girls are features of these saloons. That they are sufficiently Satanic to be puffed in the *World* is saying a great deal against them, in the estimation of respectable folks. In the name of all that is good and decent, therefore, we protest against the daily editorial advertising of such places in which the *World* indulges. If they are respectable concerts they need no such Satanic puffery, and if they are haunts of infamy the *World* should either cease inducing people to go to them or they should be suppressed by the Grand Jury.

In several articles the *World*, while professing to oppose, has really advertised these concert saloons, and endeavored to so stimulate the curiosity of its readers as to make them visit these places of doubtful amusement. It is Satan at his artistic puffery again. Yesterday, for example, it gives the names and locations of several concert halls, and describes their "allurers;" the waiter girls "painted with some slight care;" the show pictures "painted in coarse distemper;" the display of "bunches of ribbons and clusters of flowers;" the minstrel "with quadrangular patches upon his knees, and a banjo extemporized from a pumpkin;" the "pirouettes" and "redundant gestures of leg" of "the dancers," with much more of this sort, calculated to excite interest and attract public patronage to the concert halls. With this stuff is adroitly mingled a little spice of hard names and apparent abuse; but the young and the unwary notice only the seductive and alluring descriptions, and the abuse suffices only to save the paper from the condemnation of unthinking parents and guardians. A little reflection will make evident to the dullest person the advantages of this style of puffery. The curiosity it excites causes some people to go; the appeals to the worst passions which it insinuates seduce others; the attractions of sin which it vividly depicts allure the young man about town or the youth anxious to "see life," while its purposely weak denunciations keep no one away who would not have stayed away if the articles had never been written. So it is plain that, by this sort of advertising by opposition, Satan reaches classes he could seduce in no other way, and at the same time does not injure his clients' business in the least. On the contrary, the managers of concert halls openly rejoice and grow rich upon such editorial puffery, and pay the price demanded for such notices gladly; for it is seldom they can get their advertisements into so conspicuous a portion of a newspaper as the editorial page.

Again we repeat that, if the concert halls are respectable, Satan of the *World* should leave them alone to honestly divide public patronage with other places of amusement; and, if really disreputable, they should no longer be sustained by the *World's* continuous and seductive editorial advertisements.

The Herald and the Surrender of Mason and Slidell.—It will be remembered that a week before Mr. Seward wrote his celebrated letter to Lord Lyons respecting the affair of the Trent we announced the intention of our government in the matter, and the terms which would accompany the surrender of the prisoners. This intelligence, and our editorial endorsements of the proposed action of the Secretary of State, no doubt reached England several days in advance of the despatch of Lord Lyons in reply to that of Earl Russell. The English press would, of course, quote our remarks on the subject with avidity, and peace with the United States would at once become a foregone conclusion in the British mind. All war preparations would be at once suspended, and the eagerness with which the public and the Foreign Office would await the report of Lord Lyons would be considerably less than before. The effect of the Herald's tone and statements would immediately impart confidence in monetary and commercial circles, and soothe the feelings of the whole country, as well as the aching heart of the sovereign.

The English Press and the New York Herald.—The mails received by the Bohemian and the Kangaroo show a marked abatement in the English war fever. Perhaps one of the strongest evidences of this is the disposition manifested by the London journals to lavish upon individuals and journals on this side the abuse which had before been so liberally bestowed on us as a nation. The New York Herald, of course, comes in for its share of the vituperation thus freely indulged in. "Despicable paper," "viperous print" and "dirty tool" are amongst the mildest of the highly seasoned epithets applied to it. The leading journal of America, and the newspapers of the largest circulation in the world, is described as on a par with the publications that emanate from Holywell street. Where are the good manners of the writers that formerly used to lecture the press of this country on the proprieties and amenities of journalism?

When the abolition of the newspaper stamp duty was first broached, the fear was expressed that it would have the effect of degrading the character and tone of the English press, by introducing into it a class of writers of low associations and habits. The result has amply justified the prediction. Judging by the language held towards this country, its institutions and statesmen, it is impossible not to arrive at the conclusion that it is now managed by a set of pothouse journalists and penny-a-liners without the least of principle or self-respect. But what is most amusing in the Billingsgate which has been showered upon the New York Herald and its proprietor is the funny inconsistency and extravagance of its statements. We are told on the one hand that we have been the means of provoking all this ill feeling between the two countries, and on the other that our influence is "infinitessimal." It is through us, nevertheless, that Northern men are induced "to torture their prisoners of war, to threaten to murder the wounded, to seek to block up the highways of nature, to plot to foster a new slave trade, and to aim at lynching England into a new code of international law." We did not know that our influence went to quite this extent; but the future historian will no doubt accept the fact as thus stated. All that remains for us to ask of our transatlantic contemporaries is, that they will do us the similar justice when they find the surrender of Mason and Slidell by our government anticipated and advocated in our columns a week in advance of the fact.

Talk and Action.—After all the excitement and declamation of the British people, the vaporing of their newspapers, the special councils of the Cabinet, the opinions of the law advisers of the Crown, and British indignation generally, in consequence of the seizure of the rebel envoys, the insignificance of the action taken in the matter contrasts amusingly with the loud and hostile demonstrations which followed the first announcement of the intelligence which affected them to such a wonderful pitch of fury. What is the actual result of all the indignation meetings and other expressions of popular, legal and diplomatic opinion, by which the world was led to believe that war between England and the United States was imminent? Simply that ten thousand men, or less, have been sent to British North America. Now, supposing that circumstances had led to a declaration of war, of what use would such a force as that have been, either in defending or invading? We could have poured more than that number into Canada in a week. But, fortunately, Great Britain will have no particular need of them so far as the United States are concerned, and therefore the effect of the homeopathic instalment of troops will be just as good as if she had sent the whole army, including the two majestic guardsmen who protect the portals of the Horse Guards in Whitehall, and who are notoriously the admiration of all the nurse maids and small boys in the neighborhood.

Whitewashing in the Chamber of Commerce.—The highly respectable colored gentlemen who are engaged in the noble profession of whitewashing are very indignant at the late attempt of the Chamber of Commerce to interfere with their occupation. It seems that Messrs. Duer and Phelps had a difficulty in the Chamber last week, and Phelps called Duer "a mean, miserable, quarrelsome, impertinent, intermeddling fellow," or words to that effect, to which Duer responded by calling Phelps "a liar." At the last meeting the Chamber attempted to whitewash the affair, and both gentlemen, or fellows, withdrew and apologized for their offensive remarks. The Chamber does not whitewash as well as the colored gentlemen, however; for if Duer and Phelps were correct in the opinions they formerly expressed of each other, then they falsify truth by retracting now; or, if they were wrong at first, then they really deserve to be called hard names for indulging in such villanous misrepresentations. Each horn of the dilemma is sharp; but the gentlemen must suffer from one or the other. The Chamber must decide which is which, and will find this subject more knotty than the currency question. There is a lie somewhere about the Chamber, and a committee of investigation ought to be immediately appointed to hunt it up and turn it out.

General Sigel.—The report that General Sigel has resigned his commission, and is about to return to his former occupations at St. Louis, will, we trust, turn out to be unfounded. Although it has obtained credence amongst his friends, we still indulge the hope that his sense of duty will have prevailed him from carrying out the intention which, it is stated, he seriously entertained. The country cannot afford to lose just now the services of an officer who has shown himself as disinterested and patriotic as he is able. From the time when his masterly retreat from Springfield pointed him out as a leader of strategic pretensions, down to the present moment, the breath of calumny has not dared to impeach his integrity and devotion to the cause of the Union. He is said not to be popular with the officers of the regular army; but this, if true, which we doubt, is compensated for by the affection and respect of all those who have served under him, and by the admiration and esteem of the country generally. We sincerely hope that General Sigel has been induced to reconsider the determination attributed to him. He is too good a soldier and too sincere a patriot not to feel that it is neither the part of the one to question the decisions of his military superiors nor of the other to allow a temporary disappointment to withdraw him from the duty which he owes the republic at this solemn crisis of its affairs.

The Anticipated Satisfactory Settlement of the Crisis—The Etiquette of Diplomacy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7, 1862.

I have to thank you for the careful publication of my letter of the 17th ultimo, of which this is the sequel, and to congratulate you on the course you have pursued with regard to the appropriate disposal of the Confederate deputies. The event has been critical, the solution honorable and satisfactory; neither party has yielded a right nor suffered a wrong. The progress, to its termination, has been conducted with scrupulous courtesy and dignity.

It is also gratifying to remark, that in the prompt settlement of our difficulties the public mind has accorded a decisive approval, and, in so doing, a favorable illustration has been made of the reliance which can be placed on the enlightened intelligence of the American character. Notwithstanding the disappointment which has existed in the escape from punishment of the compromised persons, predilections and prejudices have been yielded to the hope and in the anticipation, that the eventuality will prove that the liberal policy which has prevailed will be eminently conducive to the most conservative results.

It is, beyond all question, certain that Great Britain has not entertained any design to engage in a hostile controversy. In the diplomatic correspondence she has opened for the obvious purpose of obtaining an amicable adjustment of the offence—supposed to have been intentional—we have the most conclusive evidence that that proud and indomitable nation has voluntarily permitted herself to be committed to a persistent policy of a friendly future. The insult has been obliterated; the required surrender has been made; and, in thus seeking this reparation, a favorable opportunity has been gratuitously passed over for a prompt and complete recognition of the alien Confederate States. Thus, in contemplation of these circumstances, it is impossible to resist the conviction, that in the immense military demonstration which has been made there has been no other object in view than to be prepared to meet any hostile contingency. To the federal government the capture and the surrender of the [illegible] individuals have not been without their importance. An occasion has thus been afforded to prove to the great Powers of Europe that the United States remain true to their neutral professions, thus evincing that we have not forgotten the obligations we owe to the civilized world to preserve inviolate the invaluable conservative doctrines of international law.

It has also been gratifying to note, throughout the whole correspondence, that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Earl Russell, has preserved a uniform course of marked delicacy. On every point there has been exhibited an honorable desire to avoid giving any cause for irritation or opportunity for misapprehension; and, although a [illegible] was deemed necessary, it was, nevertheless, left to the Secretary of State to indicate and suggest the [illegible] of their exodus in a manner most agreeable to the federal government in order to ensure the consummation of a friendly issue; and while we have thus had an occasion to feel and to express the sincere respect we owe the Ministry of her Britannic Majesty, we have an agreeable duty to perform in the candid admission, that to Lord Lyons we are indebted for a cordial and judicious co-operation in carrying out the conservative instructions of his government, most especially in the considerate and unostentatious manner in which he has directed the departure from Boston of the released prisoners.

Through the whole correspondence—in its tone, tenor and distinguished comity—we have an opportunity to entertain the assurance that our foreign disagreement has been conducted to an honorable denouement, and that, henceforth, we can enjoy the gratifying anticipation of a renewal and an advantageous continuance of our friendly relations with Great Britain; and, while we recognize the happy restoration of a peaceful intercourse, it is satisfactory to conclude that there can be no possible grounds for apprehending that we shall again be involved in the prospective perils of an outside interference in the conduct of our domestic entanglements. In consideration of the elevated character of Great Britain, and the respect due our proper self esteem, we ought to banish from our thoughts, as absolutely degrading, all suspicions that there may have existed any intent of foul play for the discreditable purpose of promoting some insidious clandestine outrage on our national integrity. In harboring a feeling or impression of the possibility of the existence of a chicanery so improbable, we should not only run counter to the fairest evidences of truth and sound policy, but we should reflect most fatally on the estimate we entertain of the value of national character; consequently we are bound, in justice to Great Britain and to our own elevated regard for the moral worth of diplomatic engagements, to dispel any insinuation of motive or design of an inimical tendency. That we shall have ample cause to be gratified with the termination of our recent negotiation we have reason to believe, and the more carefully and assiduously we shall examine the past the better satisfied we shall be with its honorable terms of restoration to prospective harmony.

As an additional instance of the refined delicacy [illegible]

[illegible]

ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

The New Treasury Agent at Port Royal.

[illegible]

Captain Jewett, of the City of New York.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9, 1862.

[illegible]

ONE OF THE NEW YORK NIGHT PASSENGERS.

THE PRIZE CASES.

United States District Court.

Before Hon. Judge Betts.

JAN. 9.—*In the matter of the petition of Raymond & Porter for surplus moneys in schooner Merchant.*—Motion to compel Messrs. York & Barbace or proctors to refund moneys withdrawn from the registry of court denied, no proof sufficient being shown why it should be granted.

The Elizabethport and New York Ferry Company vs. the United States.—Motion of plaintiffs to strike out defendant's special plea as frivolous and immaterial denied, without allowance of costs.

United States vs. brig Sarah Starr and cargo.—Vessel and cargo condemned as enemy's property, with leave to District Attorney to furnish further proofs of efficiency of blockade and time it was set on foot by the government, on ten days' notice to claimants' proctor. If such proofs be not offered, decree to be entered of condemnation of vessel and cargo, and that she be acquitted of the charge of violating the blockade.

The United States vs. Schooner Aldrich.—Same as above, with the addition of being acquitted of the charge of attempting to violate the blockade, if no further proofs are offered on the part of the libellants.

The United States vs. Schooner Prince Leopold and cargo.—Same as above.

The United States vs. Brig Mary McRae, her tackle, &c., and James Crocker, claimant of one fourth part.—Decree of condemnation of three-fourths of vessel, with costs, and acquittal of one-fourth owned by James Crocker, claimant. Claims of Crocker being no lien on three fourths of vessel condemned, the remission of any portion to him must rest with Secretary of Treasury, under 8 Sec. of Act July 13, 1861.

The Judge then called the prize calendar, and no other cases being ready, the Court took up the revenue cases.

Mr. Woodford said that the government were not ready in cases 43 to 62 on the calendar.

Mr. Donohue moved on the first ten cases on the calendar, and there being no appearance in The United States vs. Brandy and Cordial Gin, verdicts were entered for the claimants by default.

The United States vs. Twenty-two Cases of Silk and Linen Brocatel.—Verdict for claimants.

Mr. F. Smyth moved, on the case of the United States vs. One hogshead, and obtained judgment for claimants.

Mr. Woodford stated that the government were prepared yesterday in prize cases, which would have occupied the Court this week and next, but the causes were all put off on motions of counsel for the claimants. The counsel were called into other courts, and that is the reason they are not ready to-day.

Judge Betts again expressed himself decidedly opposed to the delays of counsel on either side. The Court sat daily and had to adjourn for want of business.

The Court then adjourned for the day.

A Mail Robbery Almost Discovered.

As evidence of the vigilance of our Police Department we must mention a circumstance which occurred a few days since, and which came nigh proving something more than a joke, so far as a well known official connected with the Post Office Department was concerned.

The mysterious appearance of a number of large and well filled mail bags in an out of the way place in Pearl street, [illegible]

[illegible]

City Intelligence.

[illegible]

Police Intelligence.

[illegible]

Chamber of Commerce.

THE OFFICE OF SOLICITOR OF CUSTOMS—THE COAST SURVEY QUESTION, ETC.

A special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held at their rooms, at one o'clock yesterday, Mr. Pelatiah Perit in the chair. The meeting was called for the purpose of taking into consideration the new office of Solicitor of Customs, to be created by the government, such officer to have the charge of all things appertaining to revenue cases and emoluments accruing from the same.

Mr. CHARLES GOULD was the first speaker upon the occasion. He said that it was quite necessary that the Chamber of Commerce should discuss and ventilate the question of this new appointment. He would advocate a remonstrance to the proposed act (the gentleman reading the act in question), and putting forth his points as follows:—

1. It is contrary to sound policy that the law adviser of the government should be the subordinate of the Collector, as the bill proposes. If so, the importing interest is at the mercy of the revenue officers. The United States District Attorney is a proper check upon the Collector, and he prosecutes the claim on property or the merchant or not, according to the merits of the case. Appoint a Solicitor of Customs, subordinate to the revenue officers, and they may recklessly seize upon the property of our merchants and then sit in judgment upon their own acts for their own profit.

2. The law creates needless expenses at a time when economy prompts the abolition of every office which is not indispensable, rather than the creation of new offices.

3. The proposed gift to the revenue officers of one-half of the proceeds of confiscations under act of July 13, 1861 (the act under which all rebel vessel interest is seized), is opposed by every sense of economy and justice.

4. The sixth section of this act to create a Solicitor of Customs, allowing the Secretary of the Treasury to dispose at will of all cases in amount under $1,000, might, with unscrupulous revenue officers, be the source of extensive corruption in the way of compromising and "selling out" the interests of the government in these cases. As the law now stands the case must be determined by judicial investigation, and after the case is before the proper tribunal the revenue officers cannot dispose of it in any way. Under the act proposed the Solicitor of Customs, being an appointee of the Collector, any suit, however important, might be sold out and closed to suit the purposes and gain of the Collector, &c., by consent of the Solicitor, but especially would this be done, by order of law, regardless of the Solicitor, in all cases involving less than $1,000. The importer, who really fears a judicial investigation, has only to pay to the revenue officers their one-half interest, and thereby he saves the other half that belongs to the government, and the revenue officers, by their representations to the Secretary of the Treasury, can practically discontinue all proceedings at any time by authority of this proposed act.

5. The United States District Attorney is paid to discharge the duties proposed to be rendered by the Solicitor of Customs; and his facilities for a prompt discharge of his duties must, it may reasonably be expected, be greater than can be those of a new department, without experience and organization.

6. It is not the fault of the United States District Attorney that every suit in his office is not closed. Every case in his office [illegible] may be ready for trial within twenty-four hours' notice. The delays are caused by the pressure of business on the Judge, who can hear but a certain number of causes in a given time.

The District Attorney occupies every hour that the Court can give him, and a "solicitor" would not interfere with the bench if he attempted to do more. An illustration of the way suits are delayed can be given. During the months of November and December last the District Attorney placed upon the calendar for trial sixty cases, and of these tried twenty-one. In all of these sixty suits the District Attorney was ready and anxious for trial, and moved them on. The thirty-nine suits not tried went off by order of the Court upon various excuses and reasons urged by the claimants, who, it must be borne in mind, are as much entitled to consideration from the Court as the United States Attorney or any other government officer.

[illegible]

The Rabbis and the Chaplains of the Army.

[illegible]

The Navy.

NEW APPOINTMENT.

[illegible]

MOVEMENTS OF TRANSPORTS.

[illegible]

News from South America.

We have files of the *Jornal do Commercio*, of Rio Janeiro, to the [illegible] of November [illegible], containing later intelligence from the Rio de la Plata.

The most significant intelligence which reaches us from the Argentine Confederation is the retirement of President Derqui, who had embarked for Montevideo on board the British war steamer Ardent. Just before leaving he addressed an official letter to Vice President Pedernera, in which he said that, as it had been stated that the only obstacle to the cessation of the disastrous state of affairs in the republic was his presence in the administration, he had determined to withdraw, and to lay before the Congress the reasons that influenced him. There was no order whatever in the country, and the directions of the Vice President are treated with contempt. According to the papers, there was a general arming in progress among the inhabitants of Tucuman, Santiago, Salta, Jujuy, San Luis and other provinces—some in defence of their local governments and others in opposition to them. Anarchy and confusion prevailed everywhere.

Cordova was said to be on the verge of revolution, and the government was moving large bodies of troops for its suppression.

Negotiations were still continuing between Mitre, of Buenos Ayres, and Urquiza, of the Argentine Confederation. The *Nacional* sets forth the following as the supposed propositions of Mitre, on the part of Buenos Ayres:—

1. The removal of the actual national authorities by Urquiza.
2. The disarmament of the federal navy.
3. Convocation of a new Congress.
4. Election of a new President.
5. Complete neutrality of Urquiza in the future operations which Urquiza might undertake.
6. The removal of all provincial governors antagonistic to the cause of Buenos Ayres.

On the other hand, the *Nacional* understands that the terms of peace on which Urquiza will insist, will embrace his own continuance in the government of Entre Rios.

It was feared that Mitre was about to advance into the heart of the country, and to seize and depose all the local governors.

The wild Indians were threatening the southern borders of Buenos Ayres, and troops were moving to its defence.

A quantity of fresh meats preserved by a new process, four months since, has been prepared for the great exhibition of London. The discovery was made by Don Francisco Ministri, of Paysandu.

There is nothing of importance from the Oriental republic.

From Paraguay we learn that the internal affairs of the country are in a flourishing condition. A new railroad had been successfully opened. Among the articles exported for the month of October are seven thousand and twenty-three arrobas of tobacco, and fifteen thousand four hundred and six of Yerba mate.

The grand agricultural and industrial exhibition of Pernambuco was inaugurated with great *eclat* on the 14th of November. There were large delegations from the provinces of Alagoas, Parahyba, Rio Grande do Norte and Ceara. Up to the 19th the exposition had been visited by five thousand three hundred and sixteen persons.

Telegraph Line Along the Coast.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28, 1861.

During the month of May last, myself and associates [illegible]

[illegible]

The Rejection of Mr. Foster, of North Carolina.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

[illegible]

M. N. TAYLOR.

Personal Intelligence.

[illegible]

Arrivals and Departures.

[illegible]

... Joseph Ayres, Mr Richter, George West and wife, Miss Bailey, and A Y Harrison, New York; J G Metzger, wife and two children and servant, and Miss Donaldson, of Williamsburg, NY; D B Hughes, R A Hawkins and James Stanbury, of Toronto; John Fields, and Wm Morris, of Montreal; Wm McHutchison, and E H Irving, of Canada; Robert C Johnson, of San Francisco; Mrs Magill, of Scotland; G B Crew, of Liverpool; Wm Dudley, of England—29. For Halifax—J G Hall, and J M Jones, of Boston; George E Prescott, of North Carolina; Miss Burns, C Keene, and Cyrus Cleaveland, of New York; George Wheelwright, of Brooklyn, NY; Sister Mary Frances, E Keith, E G Fuller, and T G Wallace, of Halifax; Miss Mary Wilson, of Montreal; J H Hoyt, of Canada; Lieut Atkinson, British Army; Henry Sykes, of England; Samuel Grant, of California—16. Total 45.

Court Calendar—This Day.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT.—Short Causes.—Part I.—Nos. 3109, 3361, 4367, 4513, 4751, 4799, 4865, 4815, 4873, 5097, 5093, 4927, 4935, 4947, 5339, 5395, 5411, 5629, 5627, 5643, 5673, 5681, 5709, 5711, 5715, 5707, 5819, 5833, 5635, 5843, 5845, 5865, 5875, 5877, 5881, 5913½, 6059, 6427, 6673, 6379, 6699, 6713, 6723, 6763, 6771, 6859. Part II.—Nos. 1706, 1720, 2294, 2464, 3650, 4060, 4106, 4121½, 4761, 4770, 4972, 5110, 5116, 5440, 5522, 5566, 5576, 5612, 5678, 5704, 5722, 5186, 5770, 5821, 5772, 5732, 5774, 5824, 5832, 5849, 4850, 5854, 5856, 5870, 6200.

SUPERIOR COURT.—Part I.—Nos. 1157, 2677, 2819, 2841, 2883, 2865, 2857, 2859, 2891, 2802½, 2893, 2895, 2897, 2901, 2905. Part II.—Nos. 2612, 2373, 3150, 3152, 3154, 3156, 3158, 3160, 3162, 3164, 3166, 3168, 3172. Part III.—Nos. 2905, 2907, 2909, 2911, 2913, 2915, 1917, 2919, 2921, 2923, 2925, 2927, 2929, 2931, 2933. Part IV.—Adjourned until Monday next.

COMMON PLEAS.—Part I.—Nos. 672, 663, 653, 768, 709, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720. Part II.—Nos. 414, 662, 1417, 697, 760, 701, 120, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.—Same as before.

MAILS FOR THE PACIFIC.

The Latest War News from All Points of the Country—Map of Gen. Zollicoffer's Position on the Cumberland River—Interesting Intelligence from the South—Important News from Europe, &c., &c., &c.

The mail steamship Northern Light, Captain Tinklepaugh, will leave this port at noon to-morrow (Saturday) for Aspinwall.

The mails for Central America and the South Pacific will close at half-past ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

The NEW YORK HERALD—Edition for the Pacific—containing News from all Points of the Country, giving details of the Progress of the War; A Map of the intrenched Position of the Rebel General Zollicoffer on the Cumberland river, showing the heights he has fortified and what they command; Interesting Intelligence from the South; The Latest News from Europe; Reports of the Recent Prize Fights in New Jersey, and a record of all important events that have transpired during the past ten days, will be ready on Saturday morning, at eight o'clock.

Single copies, in wrappers, ready for mailing, six cents.

Official Drawings of Murray, Eddy & Co.'s Kentucky and Missouri State Lotteries.

KENTUCKY, EXTRA CLASS 15—Jan. 9, 1862.

39, 9, 17, 10, 61, 31, 45, 48, 27, 18, 75, 20.

KENTUCKY, CLASS 14—Jan. 9, 1862.

6, 35, 68, 61, 46, 45, 16, 44, 11, 63, 50, 90.

Circulars sent free of charge by addressing either to MURRAY, EDDY & CO., Covington, Ky., or St. Louis, Mo.

Official Drawings of the Delaware State Lottery.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Married.

[illegible]

Died.

[illegible]

MISCELLANEOUS.

[illegible]

MILITARY.

[illegible]

THE FIREMEN.

[illegible]

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

[illegible]

LECTURES.

[illegible]

SITUATIONS WANTED—FEMALES.

A YOUNG GIRL WANTS A SITUATION AS CHAMbermaid and to assist in the washing and ironing. Can be seen at her present employer's, 122 West 14th st.

A LADY WISHES TO FIND A SITUATION FOR A smart, active girl, as chambermaid and waiter, who is fully competent in the care of a baby or older children. Apply between the hours of 12 and 2 at 179 West Eleventh street, January 9 and 10.

A PROTESTANT YOUNG WOMAN WANTS A SITUAtion as seamstress; can cut and fit ladies' and children's dresses; understands all kinds of family sewing. Call at 117 ... for two days.

A GERMAN WIDOW WISHES A SITUATION AS COOK in a restaurant. Call at 220 Bloomfield st., Hoboken.

A SITUATION WANTED—BY A RESPECTABLE young girl, to do plain cooking, washing and ironing, or to do housework; no objection to city or country; wages no object, as she prefers a good home. Can be seen till suited at 224 West 16th st.

A RESPECTABLE YOUNG GIRL WISHES A SITUAtion to do general housework in a small private family, or would go as waiter and chambermaid. The best of city reference if required. Call for two days at 221 Columbia st., near Degraw, Brooklyn.

A GERMAN GIRL WANTS A SITUATION IN AN American family. Call at 76 1st st.

A COMPETENT PERSON WISHES TO OBTAIN WORK by the day in a private family, to do sewing, with or without the sewing machine; understands cutting and fitting boys' clothing and all kinds of family sewing. Can be seen for two days at 205 West 16th st., second floor.

A RESPECTABLE GIRL WISHES A SITUATION AS first class plain cook, good washer and ironer; wishes to live in a private family; thoroughly understands her business; best city reference from her last place. Call for two days at 213 Jay st., Brooklyn, next door to the bakery.

A RESPECTABLE YOUNG WOMAN WANTS A SITUation as nurse and seamstress in any kind of up stairs work; a pleasant home more an object than high wages; the very best city reference from her last place. ...

[illegible]

HELP WANTED—FEMALES.

[illegible]

HELP WANTED—MALES.

[illegible]

SITUATIONS WANTED—MALES.

[illegible]

WINES AND LIQUORS.

[illegible]

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

[illegible]

FOR SALE.

[illegible]

LOST AND FOUND.

[illegible]

HOTELS.

[illegible]

RESTAURANTS.

[illegible]

THE TRADES.

[illegible]

HOUSES, ROOMS, &C., TO LET.

[illegible]

SPECIAL NOTICES.

[illegible]

FINANCIAL.

[illegible]

LOAN OFFICES.

[illegible]

FRENCH ADVERTISEMENTS.

[illegible]

BOARDING AND LODGING.

[illegible]

BOARDING AND LODGING.

[illegible]

HOUSES, ROOMS, &C., WANTED.

[illegible]

ASTROLOGY.

[illegible]

SALES AT AUCTION.

ALBERT MORTIMER GRIFFIN & CO., AUCTIONEERS.

$12,000 worth of

SUPERB HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, PAINTINGS, STATUARY, &c.

At Public Auction, on this day (FRIDAY), January 10, At the Elegant Residence 41 West Sixteenth street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues.

SALE COMMENCING AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK.

Viz:— Seven Octave Rosewood Pianoforte, Rosewood Drawing Room Suits, Bronze and Ormolu Chandeliers, Velvet Medallion Carpets, Sevres and Dresden China Ornaments, Pier and Mantel Mirrors, Lace Curtains, Oil Paintings by eminent artists.

The auctioneers would call the particular attention of their friends and the public to this sale, the catalogue comprising the richest assortment of Household Furniture, &c., offered at auction this season. The Furniture was all made to order less than seven months ago, and is of the best description. [illegible]

Magnificent seven octave rosewood Pianoforte, Canterbury Stool and Cover.

[illegible]

N. B.—Strangers wishing to attend this sale can take the Fifth avenue, Broadway or Sixth avenue stages and cars at the Astor House, St. Nicholas and Metropolitan Hotels, which will bring them within a few doors of the house, corner of Sixteenth street. Competent persons will be in attendance to pack, ship or cart the goods, at reasonable charges.

AT AUCTION.

Patent Rights and Assets of New Jersey Patent Tanning Company.

CHARLES A. LENT, AUCTIONEER,

Will sell, on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the salesroom, 319 Broad street, Newark, N. J., at public auction, the Patent Rights for the United States, and portions of Europe; a large amount of Book Accounts, Promissory Notes and other Bills Receivable, and such other personal property belonging to the New Jersey Patent Tanning Company, at Newark. Sale positive.

AUCTION NOTICE.—AN EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY for housekeepers and the trade.—All the beautiful Household Furniture contained in the large dwelling house 130 Waverley place, near Sixth avenue, will be sold at public auction this day, at half-past one o'clock precisely, consisting of elegant rosewood seven octave Pianoforte, [illegible]

AMUSEMENTS.

NIBLO'S GARDEN.

Lessee and Manager.....Henry C. Jarrett.

TRAGEDY NIGHT.

FOURTH NIGHT

of the eminent histrionic artists,

MR. E. L. DAVENPORT,

MR. JAMES W. WALLACK, JR.,

MR. WILLIAM WHEATLEY,

MR. T. PLACIDE,

MR. MARK SMITH,

MR. GEORGE EYRE,

MRS. JAMES W. WALLACK, JR.

AND MRS. JULIA BENNETT BARROW.

THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING, JAN. 10,

will be presented Shakspere's tragedy of

HAMLET,

received on Wednesday night last by a crowded audience with most unqualified approbation, Mr. Davenport having been called before the curtain three times during the evening.

Mark the distribution of characters:—

Hamlet.....Mr. E. L. Davenport
Ghost.....Mr. Jas. W. Wallack, Jr.
Laertes.....Mr. Wm. Wheatley
King Claudius.....Mr. George Eyre
Polonius.....Mr. Mark Smith
First Grave Digger.....Mr. T. Placide
Queen.....Mrs. Jas. W. Wallack, Jr.
Ophelia.....Mrs. Julia B. Barrow

To-morrow (Saturday) OTHELLO,

with a distribution of characters which cannot be surpassed by ANY THEATRE IN THE WORLD.

Iago.....Mr. JAS. W. WALLACK, Jr.
Othello.....Mr. E. L. DAVENPORT
Cassio.....Mr. Wm. Wheatley
Emilia.....Mrs. J. W. Wallack, Jr.
Desdemona.....Mrs. Julia B. Barrow

On Monday evening next, January 13,

will be presented the

GRAND HISTORICAL PLAY OF

THE KING OF THE COMMONS.

James V. (King of Scotland).....Mr. J. W. WALLACK, Jr.

As performed by him in England, California and the principal cities of the United States, with marked success.

The rest of the cast will commend itself to every lover of the drama.

PRICES.—Admission (to all parts of the house) 50 cents; secured parquet stalls, 75 cents, of which a limited number only will be for sale during the day.

The entire parquet, balcony, dress and family circle, without reservation, thrown open to the public at night.

Doors open at 7 o'clock; curtain rises at 7½.

Box office open daily from 8 A. M. till 5 P. M.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE.

UNEXAMPLED SUCCESS

OF THE

GREATEST AMERICAN COMEDY,

Ever produced, and which, on its original production at this theatre, for a

PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS

created such an uninterrupted

CARNIVAL OF FUN,

as to be received nightly with

SHOUTS OF LAUGHTER

and

UNCEASING APPLAUSE.

The distribution of characters will include nearly all the names connected with the

ORIGINAL CAST,

and

ALL THE FAVORITES

of the present popular company, and the play will be presented with that careful attention to

SCENERY, DRESSES AND MUSIC,

for which this theatre has ever been celebrated.

TO-NIGHT,

AND EVERY NIGHT TILL FURTHER NOTICE,

OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.

OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.

OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.

OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.

OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.

OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENERY AND INCIDENTS.

SCENE I.—MORNING ROOM AT TRENCHARD MANOR.

Servants' Gossip.

An Itinerant Post Office.

Brattleboro, Vermont.

A Dead Branch.

OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.

An Unsatisfactory Luncheon.

No Chowder.

No Slapjacks.

An American Drink.

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN TRENCHARD MANOR.

A Model Lawyer.

A Drunken Clerk.

An Old Mortgage.

The Price of Happiness.

A Noble Resolve.

SCENE III.—A DRESSING ROOM.

A Small Wardrobe.

Yankee Curiosity Aroused.

[illegible]

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.]

tonal. Of course this whole discussion proceeds on the assumption that the rebels are to be regarded as belligerents, which is the character already accorded to them by Great Britain. If they are not regarded as belligerents, then the proceeding of Captain Wilkes is indubitably illegal and void. To a political offender, however deep his guilt—though branded with the undying execrations of all honest men, and bending beneath the consciousness of the ruin which he has brought upon his country—the asylum of a foreign jurisdiction is sacred, whether on shore or on sea; and it is among the proudest boasts of England, at least in recent days, that the exiles of defeated democracies as well as of defeated dynasties, have found a sure protection beneath her majestic flag. And yet this Power has not always accorded to other flags what she claimed for her own. One of the objections diplomatically presented by Great Britain at the beginning of the present century to any renunciation of the pretension of impressment on board American vessels, was "that facility would be given, particularly in the British Channel by the immunity claimed by American vessels, to the escape of traitors." (State Papers, vol. 3, p. 86.) thus assuming that traitors—the companions of Robert Emmett, in Ireland, or the companions of Horne Took, in England—ought to be arrested on board a neutral ship; but that the arrest could be accomplished only through the pretension of impressment. But this flagrant instance cannot be a precedent for the United States, which has always maintained the right of asylum as firmly as it has rejected the pretension of impressment. If I am correct in this review then the conclusion is inevitable. The seizure of the rebel emissaries on board a neutral ship cannot be justified according to our best American precedents and practice. There seems to be no single point where the seizure is not questionable, unless we choose to invoke British precedents and practice, which beyond doubt led Captain Wilkes into the mistake which he committed. [illegible]

with the Secretary of the Navy, and [illegible] any explanation?

Mr. [illegible] said that communication had been had with the committee of the other House, and one of the Navy Committee, a Senator, called on [illegible] it was understood that the facts were admitted.

[illegible]

House of Representatives.

[illegible]

The Indiana Democratic Convention.

[illegible]

NEWS FROM THE STATE CAPITAL.

The Treasury Controversy—Presentation to the Late Secretary of State—Rumors About the Committees—The Contest for Superintendent of Public Instruction—Broadway Concert Saloons—Col. Bell—Exchange of Prisoners—Relief of Ireland—The Negro in Congress, &c.

ALBANY, Jan. 9, 1862.

The Treasury controversy is still unsettled. Dorsheimer and his officials have possession of the books and the Treasurer's office, while the new Treasurer occupies a desk in the Comptroller's office, and is conducting the business the best that he can under the circumstances. The Comptroller will not recognise any of Dorsheimer's drafts, but countersigns those of Mr. Lewis. Mr. Dorsheimer, at an early stage of the difficulty, notified the banks having the funds of the State on deposit not to recognise or pay the orders of Mr. Lewis; but the bank officers finding that the Comptroller only recognized the new official, they paid no attention to the notice of Mr. Dorsheimer, and pay all drafts presented, drawn by Mr. Lewis, countersigned by the Comptroller. The course that this affair has taken has led to a general suspicion in political circles here that there is some screw loose, or something wrong in the Treasurer's Department which Dorsheimer is anxious to have covered [illegible]

[illegible]

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

[illegible]

[illegible] process of law, and shall file with the department a copy of their charter and annual reports of the actual business and condition of their company.

APPOINTMENT.

Caleb S. Babcock, of Westchester, has been appointed Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms in the Senate.

Assembly.

ALBANY, Jan. 9, 1862.

BILLS NOTICED.

By Mr. McMULLEN—To provide support for the families of volunteers by a State tax.

By Mr. SMITH—To amend the law relative to the appointment of inspectors of election and district canvassers in New York.

To amend the Sunday laws.

By Mr. McCABE—To regulate the sale of fruit in New York.

Mr. CORY gave notice of a bill to abolish the office of ward constable in New York city.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. KENNEDY—To appropriate $100,000 for the relief of suffering Ireland, and to make the Governor, Comptroller and Secretary of State a commission to expend the fund.

By Mr. McLEOD—To extend the streets between Fourteenth and Thirty-first streets, New York.

Mr. McLeod's bill extends the streets between the centre of West Fourteenth street and the southerly line of West Thirty-first street, to the bulkhead line, confirms all grants heretofore rightfully and legally made by the city of land under water between the points named, and ex[illegible]

[illegible]

Our Baltimore Correspondence.

[illegible]

The Troubles in Newfoundland.

[illegible]

NEWS FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 8, 1862.

Big Bethel is again occupied by the enemy, as I learned from contrabands.

The steamer Connecticut, from New York, arrived this afternoon, and is to sail this evening for Port Royal.

Judge Marvin, of the Admiralty Court at Key West, goes out as a passenger in her.

The French steamer Catinat arrived in the Roads from New York this afternoon.

The rebel batteries at Craney Island have been practising all day.

The steamboat Phenix has sailed for Port Royal, with the mails. Her small size and light draught will make her useful.

The Rancocas has sailed for Hatteras.

No papers have been received from the South to-day.

OUR FORTRESS MONROE CORRESPONDENCE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 7, 1862.

Lull in Military Operations—The New York Herald the Medium of Obtaining News from All Parts of the Universe—Cold Weather on the 5th and 6th inst.—Suffering in Consequence by the Troops—How do the Rebel Sentries Stand the Frost?—Attempted Desertion of Three Men—Apprehension of One of Them—Activity of Provost Marshal Davis, and Assistant Devoll, and Harbor Master Millward—Notice to the Public in Regard to Letters for Soldiers, and How to Address Them, &c., &c.

Since the arrival of the released Union prisoners on Friday night last, there has been a perfect lull in everything appertaining to the operations of this department. The gallant dash into Bethel by the detachment of the Eleventh Pennsylvania cavalry, in command of Lieutenant [illegible]

[illegible]

NEWS FROM THE UPPER POTOMAC.

[illegible]

OUR POINT OF ROCKS CORRESPONDENCE.

[illegible]

intention to have been the destruction of the railroad and the breaking up of our communications, together with inconveniencing us by cutting off our supply of coal from Cumberland. It is most likely that they had considered all these chances and schemes more or less, and that in the aggregate they induced them to writhe their rattlesnake army.

The refugees who constantly arrive here tell some doleful tales of the suffering caused to the enemy by the frost and snow. As there is nothing beyond the fact that they do suffer intensely from cold, so that there are from six to twelve funerals a day at Leesburg, out of 6,000 men, I will add nothing further on this subject.

The negroes sometimes, in their efforts to escape from slavery, wade through the low river to the islands in it, and, crossing these to the margin of the water near the Maryland shore, wave white handkerchiefs incessantly till they are brought within our lines. As they generally manage to run the gauntlet of the rebel pickets at night, they sometimes remain many hours on the islands before they are noticed, and suffer intensely from cold, hunger and terror. Hope alone sustains them. These are pictures of affairs on the Potomac at the present time.

IMPORTANT FROM MISSOURI

THE GREAT EXPEDITION TO NEW ORLEANS VIA NASHVILLE.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 9, 1862.

A special despatch from Cairo to the *Democrat* says that 25,000 troops are now on their way there from different points, and as soon as they arrive, a column from 60,000 to 75,000 strong will march from thence to Paducah under Gen. Grant. The destination of this force is said to be Nashville, whence, if a junction can be made with Gen. Buell's command, the entire army will proceed to New Orleans. This movement will undoubtedly occur within the next six days.

IMPORTANT ORDER RESPECTING NEWSPAPERS.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 9, 1862.

The Provost Marshal General has issued an order requiring all publishers of newspapers in the State of Missouri, St. Louis city papers excepted, to furnish him a copy of each issue for inspection, and failure with which order will render the paper liable to suppression.

Great excitement occurred in the Chamber of Commerce this afternoon, on the occasion of the election of officers, which resulted in the disruption of the Chamber by the withdrawal of the Union members, who subsequently established a Union Chamber of Commerce, which will be immediately carried out. The trouble occurred in consequence of the secession members refusing by their votes to admit a number of Union applicants for membership.

GENERAL BURNSIDE'S EXPEDITION.

DEPARTURE OF THE EXPEDITIONARY CORPS FROM ANNAPOLIS.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Jan. 9, 1862.

About half of General Burnside's expedition had sailed for Hampton Roads at nine o'clock this morning. At three o'clock the others had steam up, ready to depart.

The Rebel Loss in the Huntersville Fight.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 9, 1862.

The number of rebels killed at the Huntersville fight was incorrectedly telegraphed. It should be eight killed instead of eighty.

MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN THE CITY.

SECOND REGIMENT, NEW YORK STATE MILITIA.

Lieutenant Worrall, of this regiment, will send out a squad of recruits on Saturday (to-morrow) to the regiment, now at Poolesville, Md. Those who wish to join this regiment must apply at once. Recruits will be fully uniformed before leaving the city. Headquarters on East Seventh street, near Third avenue.

SEVENTY-NINTH HIGHLANDERS.

The promotion of Lieutenant Colonel Addison Farnsworth, late of the Thirty-eighth, to the command of this regiment meets the approbation of all those who know the worth and services of this gallant officer. For the information of those who intend to join the regiment immediately we would state that Colonel F., accompanied by a number of recruits and several old members, will sail in the Baltic on Saturday for Port Royal, S. C. All are ordered to report at the headquarters, Mercer House.

Despatches for Europe.

HALIFAX, Jan. 9, 1862.

The Cunard steamship Persia will leave here early on Friday morning, and will call at Cape Race for despatches on Saturday afternoon. They can be sent through the agency of George Baker, 145 Broadway, N. Y.

Seizure of the Brig A. B. Cook.

BOSTON, Jan. 9, 1862.

The brig A. B. Cook, Captain Perkins, now at Holmes' Hole, is in charge of the United States authorities on the allegation of supplying coal to the privateer Sumter in the Harbor of St. Thomas. The brig sailed from Elizabethport, New Jersey.

Safety of the British Steamer Parana.

HALIFAX, Jan. 9, 1862.

The steamship Parana, which has been falsely reported lost, was at Sydney to-day. She will be here to-morrow.

The steamship Cleopatra arrived here to-day from England, with troops on board. She brings no later dates.

More Troops for Canada.

EASTPORT, Me., Jan. 9, 1862.

A large steam transport passed here at half-past three this afternoon, bound to St. Johns, with troops.

Sterling Exchange in Toronto.

TORONTO, Jan. 9, 1862.

Sterling exchange here was reduced to-day to 111—3½ per cent lower than the New York rate.

The Great Western Railroad.

HAMILTON, C. W., Jan. 9, 1862.

At an adjourned meeting of the Great Western Railroad shareholders, held here to-day, the old Board of Directors were all re-elected by a large majority—a most signal defeat of the opposition.

Arrival of the Crew of the Bark Samuel Killan at Halifax.

HALIFAX, Jan. 9, 1862.

The steamer Merlin, from Bermuda, has arrived, and brings the crew of the bark Samuel Killan, from New York for England, which was lost.

Supreme Court—General Term.

THE SPECIAL ACT AGAINST PICKPOCKETS—DECISION OF THE RECORDER AFFIRMED.

Hon. Judges Ingraham, Sutherland and Barnard presiding.

JAN. 8.—*The People vs. Sarah Williams*—This defendant, a young female thief, was tried in the Sessions for the offence created by special statute, of larceny from the person in picking the pocket of a lady in a Broadway stage. The prisoner was convicted and sentenced to the State prison. The Recorder denied a motion for a new trial, and the case came to this court for review on appeal by the prisoner's counsel, Henry L. Clinton.

Ingraham, Justice—Even conceding the act to be a local act, the section under which the defendant was convicted is not unconstitutional. The title of the act is, "An act in relation to the Police Courts in the city of New York." This section (thirty-three) authorizes the punishment of offenders of a particular class in the city of New York. It applies solely to the powers of the courts in this city, and is included under the words and in the title. It enlarges the powers of the court in this city, and does not apply to any other court, nor does it give any other authority which can be exercised by any other courts than those in the city of New York. The decision of the General Term of the Third district applied to a section which extended throughout the State in its operation. The objection, that this section is in conflict with the general provisions of law defining petit larceny, is also unavailing. It is not intended to repeal that statute, but this section creates a new punishment, different from that to be inflicted in cases of petit larceny where the property is taken from the person. So far as it requires modification it is modified by this statute. I do not think an act which applies to all the people of the State, although it may be limited to a portion of the State in its operation, is a private or local act. It is a public act, applicable to all the people of this State, and not within the provisions of that article of the constitution. As the General Term of the third district have expressed another opinion, I refrain from examining the question further, because I do not consider it material to the decision of the case, for the reason before stated. The judgment must be affirmed.

Movements of Ocean Steamers.

FROM EUROPE.

Names.	Leaves	Date.	For
John Bell	Glasgow	Dec 21	New York
Canada	Liverpool	Dec 28	Boston
Hammonia	Southampton	Dec 28	New York
Saxonia	Southampton	Jan 1	New York
North American	Liverpool	Jan 2	Portland
Africa	Liverpool	Jan 4	New York
Bavaria	Southampton	Jan 15	New York

FOR EUROPE.

Names.	Leaves	Date.	For
Etna	New York	Jan 11	Liverpool
Norwegian	Portland	Jan 11	Liverpool
Borussia	New York	Jan 11	Hamburg
Asia	New York	Jan 15	Liverpool
Bohemian	Portland	Jan 18	Liverpool
Bremen	New York	Jan 18	Bremen
Hammonia	New York	Jan 18	London
John Bell	New York	Jan 21	Glasgow
Canada	Boston	Jan 22	Liverpool
Saxonia	New York	Jan 25	London

MISCELLANEOUS.

FACTS WORTH KNOWING—THAT DR. TOBIAS' VENETIAN Liniment cures instantaneously Chronic Rheumatism, Headache, Toothache, Croup, Sore Throats, Colic, and pains of all kinds. The above is a candid statement of what Tobias' Venetian Liniment will do, and any person, after purchasing a bottle, and finding no relief therefrom, will have their money returned by the agent. Sold by all druggists.

MASSACRE OF PRISONERS AT THE OLD TOBACCO WAREHOUSE IN RICHMOND, VA. For particulars see NATIONAL POLICE GAZETTE.